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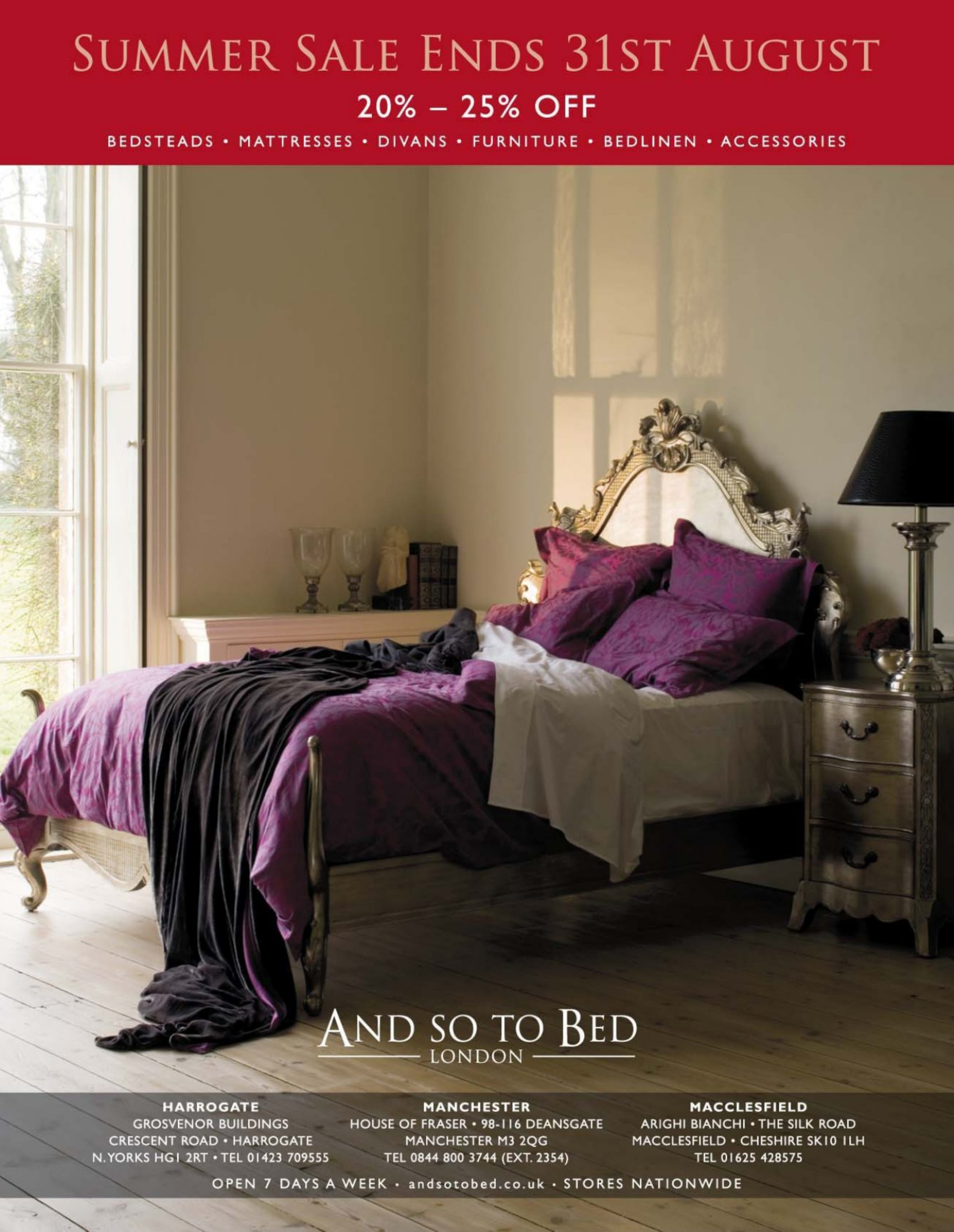
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CONTENTS

September 2009









COVER STORIES

COMPETITIONS & OFFERS

SHOPPING



74
22









VIEW

LIVING


79
82



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Extension Dreams



Trevor & Diane Coupe's kitchen, Rochdale
Designed by Diane Berry

It has the wow factor with bells on!

When Diane and Trevor Coupe moved into their new home in Rochdale five years ago, they knew the kitchen would have to go. "It was too small and I never liked it," said Diane. They wanted a room that would be the centre of the house with a fabulous kitchen that would incorporate a living area. That required a major extension.

Fast forward two years and the Coupes decided to visit a number of kitchen companies to get some ideas but found no one wanted to know as they had not had the extension built. Then, they walked into Diane Berry Kitchens and Diane was immediately impressed by their enthusiasm and ideas. Subsequently, Diane Berry visited their home and took a look at the space they already had and talked at length with them about how they wanted to live in the house.

Diane was involved from the outset, and even recommended an architect. The Coupes love the modern designs and clean lines of their new kitchen and found the team at Diane Berry professional and helpful in all matters, even when at the last minute they chose red furniture. Diane had an idea to incorporate the colour scheme – bold red glass splash backs!

They now have four ovens (including a steam and a microwave) and of course the all important Quooker which provides instant hot water on tap.

Diane Coupe's verdict? "I absolutely love my new kitchen. It's workable with everything to hand and has the wow factor with bells on." She added that her friends and family were equally impressed. "In fact, they are gobsmacked when they walk in!"

Diane Berry Kitchens are the proud winners of the coveted KBB Review Master Retailer Award for kitchens 2009.



Diane Berry Kitchens Ltd,
132 Bury New Road, Prestwich, Manchester M25 0AA
tel: **0161 798 5335** www.**dianeberrykitchens.co.uk**



3 REASONS TO GO TO LOS ANGELES

1 VISIT The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. Huntington's gardens cover 120 acres, are divided into over 12 themes (including Australian, Desert, Japanese, Lily Pond, Rose, Subtropical, Jungle and Chinese) and are the best and most inspiring *CFL's* ever seen. The gardens have been used as a filming location for numerous movies including the Japanese Gardens in *Memoirs Of A Geisha*. All the gardens have to be seen to be believed; in particular the Desert Garden with more than 5,000 species from cacti to plants. And that's all before you get to the art collection...
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, 91108.
Visit: www.huntington.org or tel. +1 626 405 2100

2 EAT at Pinkberry. While this frozen yoghurt franchise's menu offers delicious desserts, it is the upscale restaurants that make Pinkberry a design environment 'one to visit'. The stores have a soft pastel green and pink colour palette with natural pebble floors and are all fitted out with Louis Ghost Chairs by Philppe Stark for Kartell and Le Klint lighting. *Concept For Living* can recommend trying the 'Original' flavoured frozen dessert with chocolate chips topping in the Melrose restaurant to almost make you feel like a true Californian dweller.
7123 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles, 90046.
Visit: www.pinkberry.com or tel. +1 323 935 2958

3 DRINK at Citizen Smith. If you want to sip cocktails amid cool, sultry décor head to this hidden gem of a restaurant, bar and lounge space located in West Hollywood. As with most places in Los Angeles, it's not the kind of place you just stumble across, but once found it'll become a favourite and you'll leave planning a chandelier and candle makeover for your home. With two mahogany bars, faux-Brazilian bull hide walls, candlelight and a gorgeous outdoor patio area Citizen Smith is a unique drink space with captivating décor.
1600 N Cahuenga Blvd, Los Angeles, 90028-6202.
Tel. +1 323 461 5001

WELCOME TO OUR SEPTEMBER ISSUE



One of the best things about the UK is the seasons. While we may spend (our at times few and far between) hot summer days wishing it could be warm and sunny all year round, the reality of the situation is it's refreshing when summer slowly turns to autumn. New palettes creep into our environments, wardrobes and, of course, homes. September is one of the best months for appreciating this – it gives you the time to plan for autumn changes while still feeling the warmth from the last rays of summer Bank Holiday sun, and dare I say it, you can even start to get a bit excited that Christmas – sorry! – is no longer *that* far away.

And so it was with new autumn/winter 2009 trends and looks in mind that we started to plan our international style issue. From the latest collections by B&B Italia to fantastic looks and launches by Roche Bobois, plus a few secret finds from slightly further afield, you'll discover all the key new design pieces in our global trends special (page 74). *CFL* even flew to Los Angeles for you – all in the name of research!

Meanwhile, not wishing to neglect our Northern roots or focus, a little closer to home we also found time this issue to head to the annual RHS flower show at Tatton Park. Don't miss our round up of winning gardens on page 87 – prepare to be inspired and get garden creative the minute you manage to put this issue down. Plus this month sees the first of our new 'Factory Girl' features where for the next few months we will take an 'access all areas' look at the design and production process for the furniture and accessories we furnish our homes with by visiting factories and studios in the north (page 101).

And lastly, exciting news, next month sees the arrival of new acting editor Paula Woods and a few ideas and fresh pages to the magazine, so don't miss it (on sale 16 September).

Enjoy the issue,

Caroline

Caroline Jones, Acting Editor

THIS ISSUE IN NUMBERS... 11,000 MILES TRAVELLED AROUND THE GLOBE **235 PLANTS AND FLOWERS SEEN AT RHS SHOW TATTON** 7 TOM DIXON LAMPS WE'VE COVETED **3 LATE SUMMER BARBECUES – HURRAH!**


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RETAIL THERAPY

If you're looking for that statement piece for the home or ways of brightening up a room, then look no further than this month's retail therapy.

RIGHT

Fashion duo Basso & Brooke has collaborated with Graham & Brown to launch its first collection of wall coverings. With a selection of statement prints the range features eight designs, which are inspired by exotic florals of the Far East. Wallpapers are priced at £35 per roll.
Tel. 0800 328 8452 or visit: www.grahambrown.com

RIGHT INSET

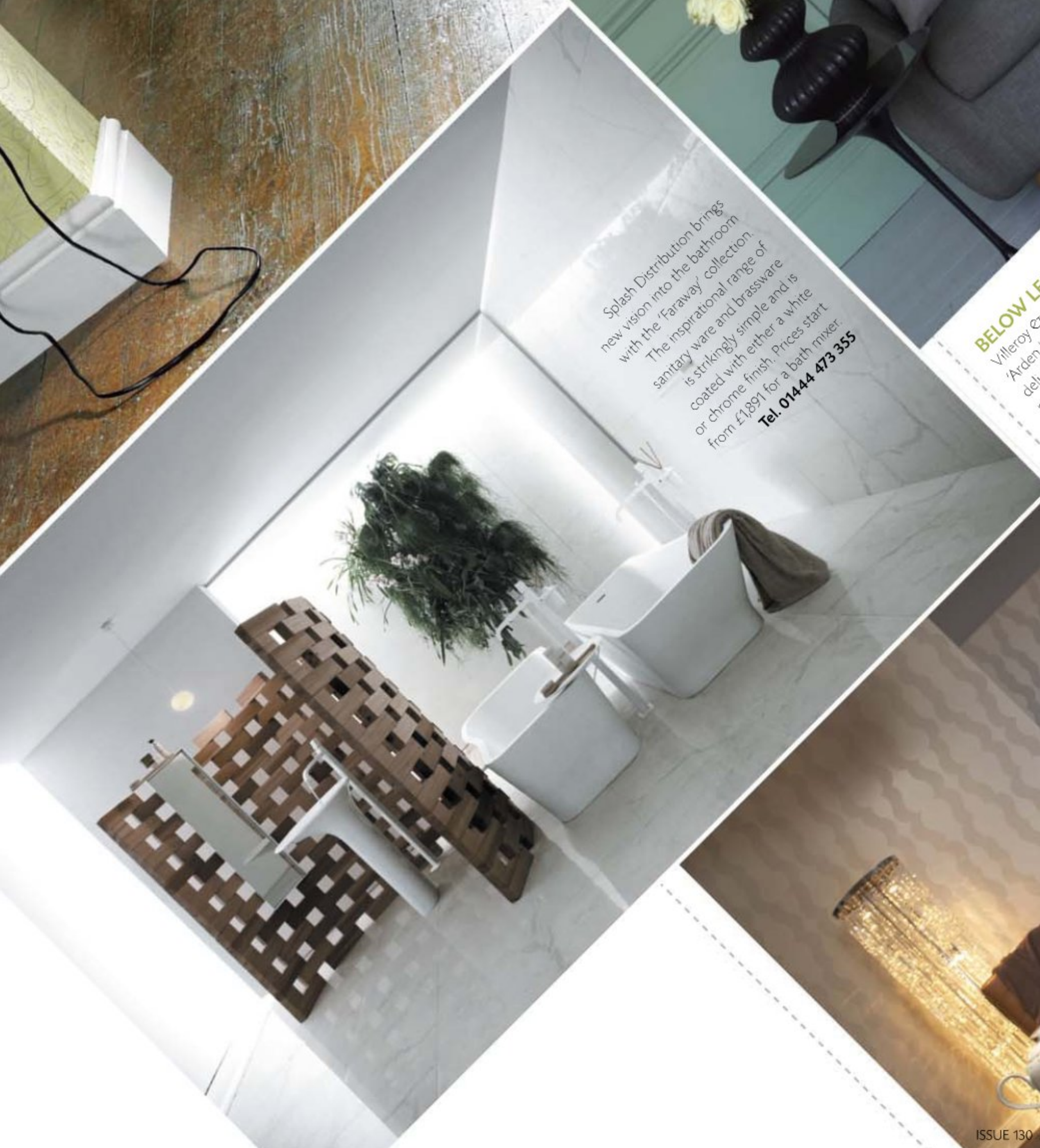
Brighten up your table with the new collection of glassware from LSA. For a funky modern addition add the 'Hula' cool colour tumblers, available in bright blue and green and priced at £13.95 for a box of four.
Tel. 0870 428 0958 or visit: www.drinkstuff.com



BELOW
The new 'Pots of Nature' collection from Pots of Paint includes 50 colours produced with sustainable raw materials. All colours have a natural chalky finish, which can be adapted for modern use. Prices start from £29.50 for 2.5 litres.
Tel. 01544 388 535 or visit: www.potsofpaint.com



Splash Distribution brings new vision into the bathroom with the 'Faraway' collection. The inspirational range of sanitary ware and brassware is strikingly simple and is coated with either a white or chrome finish. Prices start from £1,891 for a bath mixer.
Tel. 01444 473 355



BELOW LEFT
Villeroy & Boch introduce the 'Arden Lane' collection featuring delicate butterfly designs made of fine china. Simple and sophisticated with a soft retro feel the range balances masculine and feminine elements well, with natural shades and copper features. Prices start from £13.50.
Tel. 0208 875 6060 or visit: www.villeroy-boch.com





BELOW/CENTRE
Today Interiors present 'Ultra', wide-width wall coverings featuring unique patterns that capture flowing forms. Colourings include contrasting red/grey, classic taupe, coffee, aubergine, violet and putty highlighted with gold, copper and bronze. Priced from £64.95 per roll. **Tel. 01476 574 401 or visit: www.todayinteriors.com**



RIGHT
Luxaflex launches an array of window blinds in classic autumn colours. Available in romantic rustic browns, grey and hunter green shades, a variety of styles from popular wood venetians to roman shades are just some of the options available. Prices start from £45 for a 'Plisse' shade. **Tel. 0800 652 7799 or visit: www.luxaflex.com**



RIGHT
The 'Inaugural' 2009 collection from N16 Design is the latest stylish contemporary furniture that has been designed with form and function in mind. Its funky appeal would work well in any home. Prices on application. **Visit: www.n16design.com**



LEFT
'Pollen' from Naughtone is a dynamic seating system that can suit any corporate, public or educational space. The hexagon is a natural shape to repeat and create patterns, available on two styles of base and has a comfortable upholstered seat. A wide variety of upholstery finishes and table surfaces are also available.
Tel. 0113 242 7403 or visit: www.naughtone.com

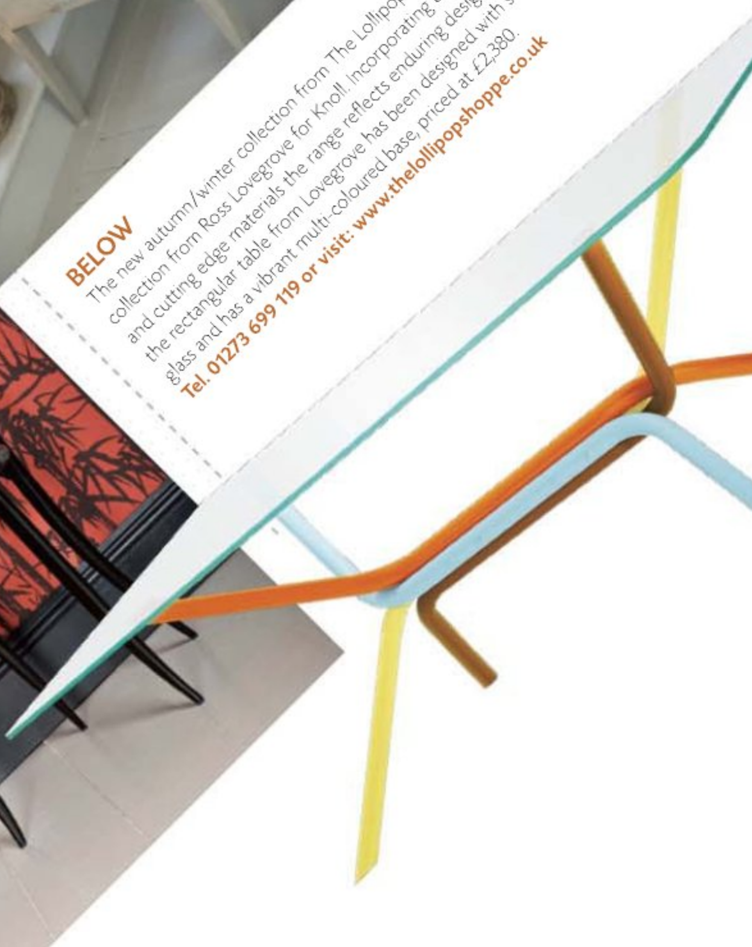




LEFT
Sanderberg have collaborated with Little Greene to produce the 'Classic Prints' collection of fabrics and wall-coverings. The range embraces textures, designs and colours that work great in the home. Prices start from £50.50 per metre.
Tel. 0845 880 5855 or visit: www.sandbergab.se/en

BELOW
The new autumn/winter collection from The Lollipop Shoppe features a collection from Ross Lovegrove for Knoll. Incorporating both traditional and cutting edge materials the range reflects enduring design. As featured, the rectangular table from Lovegrove has been designed with starphire glass and has a vibrant multi-coloured base, priced at £2,380.
Tel. 01273 699 119 or visit: www.thelollipopshoppe.co.uk





RIGHT
Inspired by the Orient, 'Bamboo' papers from Farrow & Ball feature organic shapes of soft leaves with bamboo stalks. A two-colour print is available in 30 colour combinations, the collection is available from September and is sure to work well for a striking decorative effect. Prices start from £62 per 10m roll.
Tel. 01202 876 141 or visit: www.farrow-ball.com



BELOW
'Feather' is the latest heating design from Aestus, hand-crafted into the shape of an elegant bird feather, a further five luxury finishes are available including brushed, satin or feathered aluminium as well as copper and silver leaf. If you're looking for the wow effect then 'Feather' does it, its versatility allows it to be placed in any room.
Tel. 01902 387 080 or visit: www.aestus-radiators.com

BELOW RIGHT
Aqualux has extended its range to include 'Pura' the stylish pivot door, creating space without compromising on style. Prices start from £658, and is available with a single or twin side panel.
Tel. 0870 241 6131 or visit: www.aqualux.co.uk



BELOW
'Pli' by Burgbad is available from Pure Design, this unique piece has subtle detailing and storage for all the essentials and is available in various sizes and finishes. Prices start from £1,500 for a basin.
Tel. 0113 218 6490 or visit: www.puredesignuk.com



RIGHT
Inspired by a classic form of Chinese blossom painting, Fromental's new wallpaper design 'Prunus' is painted in freehand with flowing, calligraphy-style brush strokes. Each design has been individually hand-painted and hand-embroidered by a single artist. As featured is 'Chinoiserie' in the latest gunpowder colour.
Tel. 0208 960 8899 or visit: www.fromental.co.uk





BELOW LEFT

Add a touch of warmth to the kitchen with the latest print 'Golden Orchard', designed by Victoria Mollgard from New House Textiles. Featuring autumn leaves and golden apples in rich colours the range includes trays, chopping boards, cushions and so much more. Prices start from £3.50 for a set of paper napkins.

Visit: www.newhousetextiles.co.uk





ABOVE

Nest has added a variety of new additions to their ever-growing contemporary collection. As pictured the 'ClassiCon' saturn stool is priced at £594.69, and is available in three colours: vermilion, black and white. This flexible stool is ideal for relaxing on or simply the perfect option on which to rest a book.

Tel. 01142 666 900 or visit: www.nest.co.uk

DESIGN **NEWS**



B&B ITALIA
EXTEND OUTDOOR RANGE >>>

Good news for fans of B&B Italia, the sophisticated Italian furniture company has extended its outdoor collection, boasting the design talent of the likes of Patricia Urquiola and Richard Schultz. Urquiola's designs offer conical shapes and a woven theme, while Schultz's collection is characterised by minimalist outdoor chairs and tables. Pictured is the 'Ravel' range by Patricia Urquiola, priced from £2,651.

Log onto: www.bebitalia.it or call +39 031 795 213 for more information.





WHITE WONDERS

Exclusive furniture designer Dwell has launched a new white-inspired range. Offering sleek and stylish sofas, dining chairs, coffee tables, sideboards and accessories the pieces will give your living space a late-summer freshen up in an instant. Pictured are the Swivel Base Lounger, £245, and Floral Clock, £115.

Dwell stores can be found across the UK including in Birmingham, Manchester and Nottingham. Alternatively visit: www.dwell.co.uk or tel. 0845 675 9090 to place an order.



IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST

Chaplins has launched an array of new funky furniture. The fresh collections include a table designed by Philippe Starck and we defy you not to covet the quirkily titled Mr Impossible Chair (picture), priced at £200. Not only is Mr Impossible impossibly comfortable and stylish but it also comes in a range of colours including transparent crystal, green, grey, ochre, purple, red, matt red, orange, white and black.

For more details visit: www.chaplins.co.uk or tel. 0208 421 1779.



KITCHEN COOL

The North's kitchen options have just increased even further with the arrival of a brand new Kütchenhaus store in Hull. It's the German kitchen specialist's fifth store in the UK adding to ones in Manchester, Chester, York and Glasgow. The new store opened at Hull's St Andrews Quay retail park. "The look of the new store is extremely impressive and the size enables us to display each individual kitchen as a proper room set, rather than trying to cram in too many small displays," said Kütchenhaus managing director Norman Parker. Pictured is the 'Galaxy' kitchen, £6,603, which is one of the many full lifestyle room sets that can be seen at the store.

Go to: www.thegermankitchen.co.uk to find out more or call the new Hull store on 01482 212 472.


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DESIGN NEWS



TEA AND A SMILE

Funky home accessories store Hunkydory Home have taken 'Keep calm and carry on' fever to a new level with the launch of their parody range of mugs that bear witty slogans such as 'Work hard and be nice to people' and *CFL*'s favourite, 'Now panic and freak out'. The designs are the creation of UK designer Olly Moss and made from bone china, so your tea won't get cold while you're busy chuckling at your mug. Perfect for any kitchen or home office desk. Priced £8.

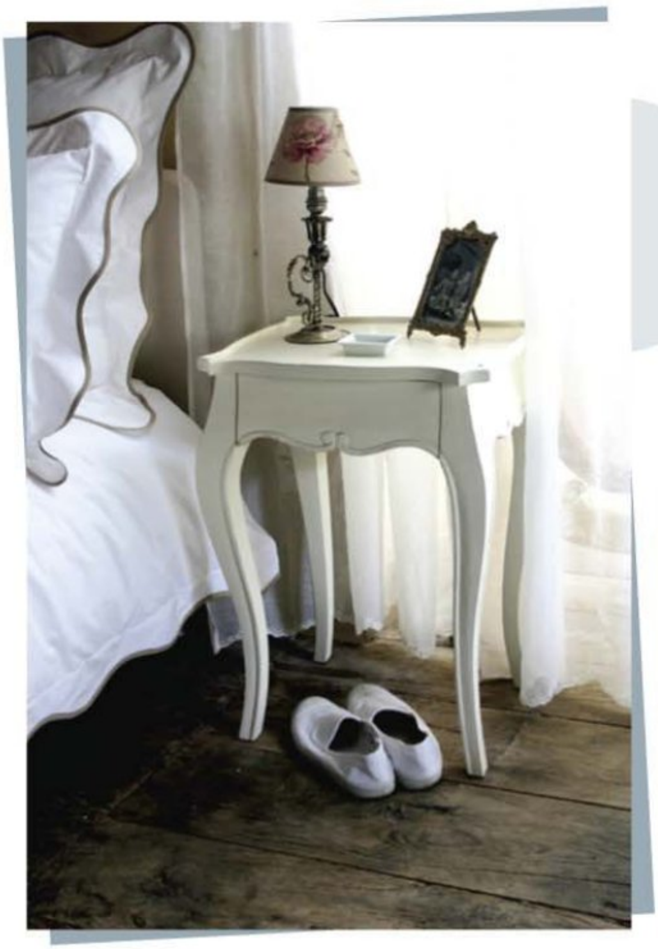
Visit: www.hunkydoryhome.co.uk to check out the mugs for yourself.



GARDEN PRETTY>>>

Looking for a new website to visit on your lunch hour for inspiration? Then visit www.thebalconygardener.com – the website specialises in ready-planted pots and window boxes for those who appreciate nature but aren't too green-fingered. They also offer gorgeous vintage garden pieces and pretty garden accessories, everything from deckchairs to bird nesting boxes, lanterns to tools. Pictured is the Folklore Bird Nesting Box, £15.95.

Visit the website for yourself at: www.thebalconygardener.com to see more.



French Fancies

CFL favourite The French House has just released its new brochure which is packed full of their authentically sourced products from French artisans and small family firms. Flicking through the catalogue is like a wander through tucked away French villages and markets. Pick up a copy of the brochure at your own risk though as it's near impossible to step away from their collection of garden lanterns, quilts and cushions, decorative ceramics and more. Pictured right are their trio of vases, purple vase, £40.60; green and black crystal vase, £76 and deep purple vase £23.60. Pictured left is the 'Wallace' bedside table, £169.

Go to: www.thefrenchhouse.net to find out more or tel. 0870 901 4547.





PERFECT POST

Yorkshire-based artist Angela Smyth has just released a new range of greeting cards and *CFL* can't get enough of them. The cards, which feature some of Angela's best-loved paintings, come in nine different designs and are bright, fun and the ideal design-led piece of stationery to pop in the post to bring a smile to a friend's face. Pictured is 'Gustav And His Muse', available nationwide from WHSmith, Clinton Cards and independent shops and galleries, £2.35.

Visit: www.angelasmyth.co.uk to find out more about Angela, her paintings and the new range.

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VINTAGE WALLPAPER COLLECTION >>>

A new range of elegant vintage wallpaper, Gustav, is now available from Sandberg. The latest collection has a botanical feel and was inspired by a light, bright and airy 20th century Swedish manor house. Detailing pretty chestnut leaves, dainty oak foliage and decorative trailing honeysuckle, the beautiful designs are ideal for giving your living space a fresh new feel. Gustav offers 13 designs and over 62 colourways.

Pictured is the 'Waldemar' wallpaper, £56 per roll, from the Gustav collection by Sandberg, visit: www.sandbergab.se/en or tel. 0845 880 5855 for more information. Sandberg is distributed exclusively in the UK by Little Greene.



STONEGATE EXPAND GLASS STUDIO

Perfect for a late summer weekend day trip, we highly recommend a visit to the newly expanded Stonegate Glass Studio and Gallery in Low Bentham, near Lancaster, Lancashire. The glass art studio, owned and run by glass artists Gary and Annette McMillan, now offers an attached gallery where the couple will sell their own artworks as well as paintings, ceramics, jewellery and furniture by other local and national artists and craftspeople. The studio designs and makes a wide selection of glass from stained glass windows to kiln formed splashbacks for kitchens and bathrooms, to large-scale glass artworks. So what are you waiting for? Go visit. Pictured in detail below is a coloured toughened glass splashback, prices start from £195.

Stonegate Glass Studio and Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday and Monday by appointment. For further details visit: www.stonegategallery.co.uk or tel. 01524 262 266.





A CUT ABOVE THE REST

If you're in the market for new cutlery and fancy brightening up your mealtimes this summer John Lewis's new 'Brights' cutlery fits the bill perfectly. The range is made by top French cutlery maker Laguiole and offers sets of forks (£19.50 for set of six), spoons (£19.50 for set of six), knives (£29 for set of six) and teaspoons (£17.50 for set of six). So add them to your kitchen and taste the rainbow!

Tel. 08456 049 049 for more information or visit: www.johnlewis.com to view the products and find your nearest stockist.

ICE CREAM TREATS

Prepare for a fun August Bank Holiday weekend and keep the little ones cool and happy with bargain accessories from the new range at Morrisons.

These ice cream bowls and spoons are just the ticket for hot afternoons in the sun and an absolute steal at £2 for a set of four!



Visit: www.morrisons.co.uk to find your nearest store.

ALL WHITE NOW

A self-build home in rural Cheshire features a melting pot of influences, from Arts and Crafts architecture to Dutch clean lines, with a touch of minimalism along the way. Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**





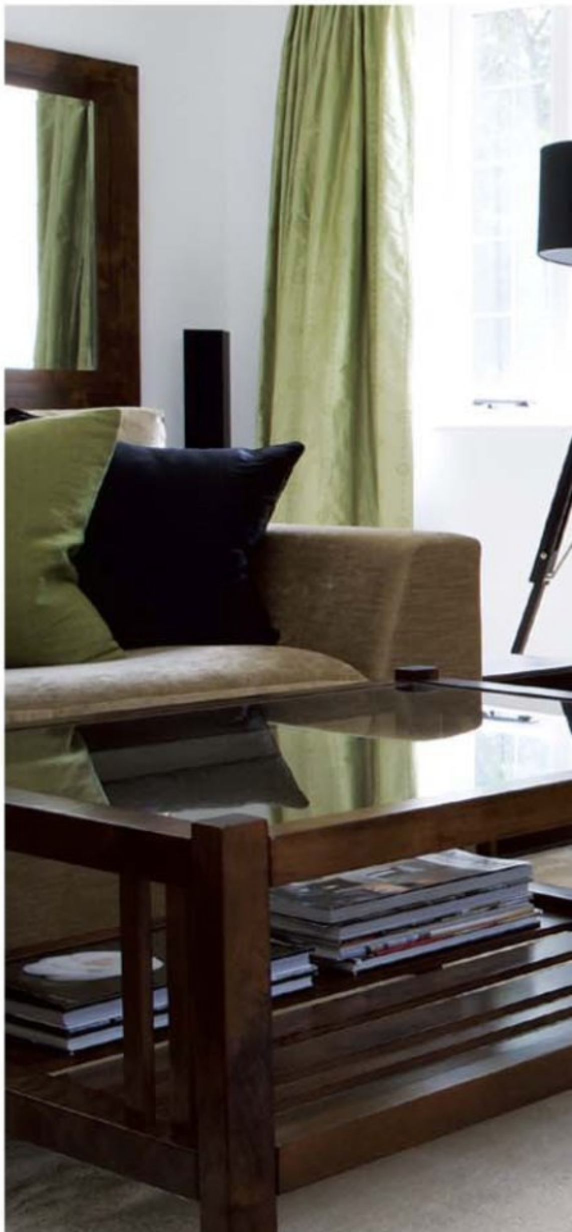
"I THINK PEOPLE GET STRESSED ABOUT PAINTING A HOUSE WHITE, THEY THINK IT'S GOING TO BE TOO STARK, BUT IN REALITY THE HOUSE SEEMS TO GLOW!"



FROM LEFT A classic 'Arco' floor lamp completes the designer look in Fiona's sunroom, and a crisp white kitchen features high gloss units to complement the porcelain floor.

"IT TOOK FOUR YEARS TO GET PLANNING PERMISSION. IT WAS A NIGHTMARE. I THINK MOST PEOPLE WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP"





Fiona and Lyndon Watkins were on holiday in Minorca when they decided to design their ideal home. "You know how it is – you're sat on your sun-bed, you've read a few books and you start thinking," said Fiona. "So we started sketching this house out, just on a bit of cardboard!" On returning to their home in Cheshire, the couple began turning their dream into a reality. The plan was to build a new home for themselves and their two teenage sons, Tom and Evan, on the land of their existing property. Little did the Watkins know, however, that they had a long process ahead of them. "It took four years to get planning permission," Fiona explained. "It was a nightmare. I think most people would have given up!"

The couple were eventually granted planning permission and set about bringing their vision to life. Wanting an Arts and Crafts-style home, Fiona and Lyndon looked to 19th-century architect and designer Charles Voysey for inspiration. They even visited Broadleys, one of the architect's most renowned buildings, which stands on a terrace overlooking Lake Windermere. "Our double-height bow window is a smaller version of those at Broadleys," said Fiona.

The couple had never done a self-build project before, so enlisted the help of Steven Curwell from T8 Design Limited, who, with his skilled team helped them to create the house of their dreams. "While this was being built we lived in the old house," said Fiona. "It was great being on site to watch progress and even better that we didn't have to live in a caravan during the build!"

From the outside, the property appears to be a traditional Arts and Crafts house. Step inside, however, and you'll see a much more contemporary design, with white-painted walls and chic furniture in an open-plan layout. "I wanted the interior to have a more modern twist," said Fiona. "People are often surprised when they walk inside as they're usually expecting something much more traditional."

Fiona has a background in styling and worked for Laura Ashley before setting up her own interior design company, which she runs from an office in her new home. Having a job where colour and pattern feature so prominently every day meant that she wanted her own home to have a relaxing effect; hence the neutral palette and absence of clutter. "I do love colour but I see it all day with work; »»»



LEFT Fiona's kauri table takes centre stage in the home's open-plan dining/entrance hall.
RIGHT A Laura Ashley table and tripod lamps add to the Arts and Crafts feel of the home.

"NO MATTER WHAT SIZE A HOUSE IS IN NEW ZEALAND, YOU ALWAYS GET A PANTRY AND YOU ALWAYS GET A LAUNDRY."





I get bombarded. I think you'll find that a lot of designers like the idea of coming back to somewhere which is quite calming and neutral," she said.

Another factor influencing the home's design was the couple's international outlook. Lyndon grew up in the rolling hills of Wales, while Fiona was born and grew up on the other side of the world in New Zealand. They also lived in Holland for five years before setting up home in rural Cheshire. "I think a lot of house builders overlook essential elements when designing an interior space," said Fiona. "No matter what size a house is in New Zealand, you always get a pantry and you always get a laundry. They're vital!"

In keeping with the Arts and Crafts philosophy, the home features large open-plan family living spaces. Dutch clean lines and ordered minimalism are evident, and Fiona has chosen furniture with simple forms and little ornamentation, concentrating instead on the beauty of natural materials. White glossy porcelain tiles, natural oak flooring and silk fabrics create a chic yet natural look. Glass is also a key feature, with two impressive Baillie Scott-inspired stained glass windows at the front of the house.

The property's sharp lines and minimalist look was inspired by homes the Watkins had seen in Holland. "We just loved living in Holland, and I think a lot of what we've got here, such as the polished floor, comes from our time spent there. Dutch people like the idea of everything being very clean."

Despite its shiny surfaces and white walls, there's nothing cold about the home. "I think people get stressed about painting a house white, they think it's going to be too stark, but in reality the house seems to glow!" said Fiona. "As an added bonus it always looks clean, bright and cheerful."

A sign hanging in Fiona's office states the William Morris quote, 'Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful' – and this is the motto by which Fiona lives. "When I'm looking for things for my home I look for things that I absolutely adore. When you go shopping for furniture or fabrics »»»





LEFT Fiona used a simple colour palette of white, black, grey and yellow in the sunroom. **MIDDLE** The home's Arts and Crafts look was inspired by the architecture of Blackwell and Broadleys in the Lake District. **RIGHT** Carefully-placed flowers on the kitchen island add a dash of colour.

"A LOT OF DESIGNERS LIKE THE IDEA OF COMING BACK TO SOMEWHERE WHICH IS QUITE CALMING AND NEUTRAL"



FROM LEFT Even the accessories in Fiona's elegant bathrooms are colour-coordinated to perfection! Creating a lush green garden is the Watkins's next project. A dramatic chandelier gives the first floor landing the 'wow' factor. Aubergine tones make the master bedroom a calming place to be.



or whatever it is, you've got to get a rush, and without that you shouldn't commit to buying anything. It's either got to be useful, or you've got to think it's the most gorgeous thing you've ever seen."

Classic and one-off pieces add individuality, and splashes of colour create interesting focal points. An 'Arco' floor lamp takes centre stage in the sunroom (a sky-lighted room which, Fiona explains, was intended to look like a modern extension) and coordinating wooden Laura Ashley tables and mirrors in the living room honour the Arts and Crafts theme. Most interesting of all is the wooden table in the entrance hall, which Fiona had shipped over from New Zealand. "It's a native New Zealand timber called kauri, but it's a protected species so you're not allowed to fell it. The species is about 60,000 years old. When the ice age hit New Zealand, all the trees were sheared off at ground level by ice sheets. As a result large kauri forests lie in bogs and swamps which are now being dredged. They are finding trees which have been perfectly preserved. Some of them still have green leaves and cones – you just cannot believe it. The timber is then kiln-dried for two to three years and then turned into furniture." For Fiona's table, which has been carbon dated to 45,000 years old, the treatment didn't end there – she stained the wood to make it darker and more in keeping with the home's décor, much to her father's dismay. "When my dad came to visit, he was mortified. He preferred the natural golden colour of the wood, so I had to explain that it wasn't right with the scheme!"

The best part of the house for Fiona, however, is the abundance of natural light. "In the UK you have to be really careful because you lose a lot of daylight for a large part of the year.

"I love having lots of windows to let in as much light as possible but also using great lighting is important – whether it's lamps for mood lighting or something more dramatic for impact. I particularly love the crystal chandelier which is suspended over the galleried landing. When the sunlight shines through it you get prisms all over the walls which creates a magical effect."

Fiona and Lyndon's home has come a long way from its roots on a piece of cardboard in Minorca, and the whole family is delighted with the end result. "I would definitely do it again," said Fiona. "It's been a lot of fun seeing our sketch come to life."





ADDRESS BOOK:

The home was built by T8 Design Ltd. **Visit: www.t8dtc.co.uk or call 01606 855 036 to find out more.**

Artist Bryony Benwell, of The Glass House in Chester, created the stained-glass windows at the front of the house. **Visit: www.theglasshousedesigns.co.uk or call 01244 314 881.**

Broadleys is an Arts and Crafts house in the Lake District which provided the inspiration for Fiona's home. **To arrange a stay, visit: www.wmbrc.co.uk or call 01539 443 284.**

Some of the home's furniture is from Laura Ashley. **Visit www.lauraashley.com**

Fiona's Arco lamp is from twentytwentyone. **Visit www.twentytwentyone.com**

The chandelier on the first floor landing is from Habitat. **Visit www.habitat.co.uk**

The drawers in all the bedrooms are from IKEA. **Visit www.ikea.com**







KITCHEN »»»

Add a classic design piece to your kitchen, the Alessi kettle priced at £78 is available online from Cooks & Kitchens Direct and is a great accessory to make the neighbours jealous.

SPARE ROOM

You can create an elegant but practical feel, go all white and create the perfect blissful sanctuary with our pick of white furniture from Laura Ashley, the 'Devon' chest of drawers is priced at £440.55.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Fiona and Lyndon's house embraces the contemporary but still has a sense of warmth and home life. With some beautiful classic pieces in their home, we've picked out some perfect buys for you to create the same look. **For stockist details see page 128**



MAIN ROOM

Add a hint of colour with these aubergine cushions from House Of Fraser, priced at £40 each you can create a cosy feel without compromising on style.



SUN ROOM

It's essential that you have the right lighting in your conservatory or sun room, perfect for reading or relaxing over a drink in the evening add the 'Arco Longbow' floor lamp from Amode, priced at £199.



HALLWAY »»»

For the perfect centrepiece add a statement mirror or clock to your wall, Fiona and Lyndon's mirror definitely gives the wow factor. Get the same look with this clock from The Contemporary Home, priced at £59.99.



LIVING ROOM

Fiona and Lyndon have added the 'Stratton' wallpaper from Laura Ashley to their living room, placing it just behind the fireplace sets off a statement and focal point to the room. You can do the same. Prices start from £20 per roll.



LIVING ROOM

Throughout their home Fiona and Lyndon have used classic pieces from Lombok, for a warm oak feel they have added a coffee table, priced from £595, to their living room, perfect for storage and as a stylish furniture addition.



A ROOM WITH A VIEW

A self-build in Cheshire has maximised on a stunning conservation-protected setting to provide a minimalist family home that is not only functional but highly stylish too.

Words **Caroline Jones** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**



OPPOSITE PAGE Simple touches like these nautical-themed accessories make the Coopers' house a home. **THIS PAGE** It was the setting and environment that first enticed the Coopers to their self-build location.







"With a self-build you've got to make so many decisions in such a short space of time, your head feels like it's going to explode in the end!"



"We were living in Manchester, but we never really intended to stay there because we knew we wanted to build a place," says Helen Cooper about her and husband Andy's decision to leave the city behind and start an ambitious self-build project and new life in rural Cheshire with their two sons Cameron, 11, and Alex, eight.

The couple originally began looking at land upon which to build in places that they were familiar with. But when a unique piece of land slightly further afield offered a too-good-to-turn-down opportunity the Coopers knew they'd found their new home. "Andy is partner in a business and he came to look around some business buildings up here," says Helen. "He saw the land that came with the buildings and said, 'You've got to come and have a look at it.' So the upshot of it was the company bought the business and we bought the surrounding land."

One of the first things that attracted the Coopers to the location was the large lake and conservation area that sits at the bottom of the land. The area today provides the beautiful view from all the rooms in the rear of their four-bedroom home, including their master bedroom and its balcony, and the kitchen/dining area. But the project was a labour of love and one that took close to five years and is still not a finished article.

"When we started the whole place looked more like a scrapyard," says Helen. The land was also sloping and required filling out, raising and flattening before building could begin. One of the most impressive rooms the home now boasts is the kitchen/dining area. The kitchen offers large glass floor-to-ceiling patio windows that fully open up to create an indoor/outdoor area, which the Coopers enjoy to the full sat in their two carefully chosen Natuzzi 'Sound' chairs that they bought from the Natuzzi Barton Square store at the Trafford Centre, Manchester. "We were looking for lounge furniture really, but the minute we saw them we knew they were exactly right for the kitchen," says Helen. »»»



OPPOSITE MAIN A Diane Berry kitchen makes the kitchen area Sarah's favourite room in the home. **THIS PAGE, MAIN** After several set-backs, including the stairs not fitting when they first arrived, the three-floor stairwell now makes an impressive hallway feature. **INSET** A few well-chosen cushions give the master bedroom a finished edge.

Meanwhile the kitchen units themselves and sleek freestanding island are by Diane Berry kitchens. Diane recognised a fundamental flaw in the original potential design and layout plans set out by other kitchen companies. "We gave her the plans and a few weeks later she got back in touch with us and said, 'Can I move things around?' We told her that nothing was built and she could move doors or anything like that, so she called back with this design and everything was completely the other way around. She said, 'I've moved the utility room door and I can't have your units there because you've got this view and you've got to be able to look out at the view.'"

The new plans meant that everything the Coopers would need to do in their kitchen from cooking to washing up could all be done facing out making the most of the view.

As with the majority of self-build projects the Coopers' home was a slow process, but that wasn't something that bothered Helen. "I think you've got to live in a home for a while to get a feel for it before you can complete the interior, especially when you've built it," she says. "With a self-build you've got to make so many decisions in such a short space of time, your head feels like it's going to explode in the end!"

For Helen, the home has two highlights. One is the outdoor entertaining space, "We've had some fantastic parties outside," she says. The second is the realisation of a lifelong desire, "My dream was that I always wanted a bathroom with a balcony," she says. "You know you get something in your head… your dream house? Well I wanted a balcony. When we went to see Gary at the bathroom store, he kept saying: 'Do we really need this balcony?' and I'd say, 'We've got to keep the balcony!'"

The most integral people involved in the Coopers' self-build were Paul of Antrobus Plant Hire And Construction, and Frank their builder. Paul was the Coopers' saviour after their original construction company went into liquidation and was responsible for the shell of the building, while Frank did the vast majority of the building work, including all the flooring throughout the house. »»»





ABOVE The kitchen/patio area makes for an ideal suntrap, complete with Natuzzi 'Sound' chair. **RIGHT** The Coopers enjoy great summer evening parties thanks to their ideal outdoor space. **OPPOSITE PAGE** A master bedroom en-suite bathroom boasts a sleek shower, luxe bath and even a balcony which brings a fresh feeling of nature.



“When we bought the Natuzzi ‘Sound’ chairs, we were looking for lounge furniture really, but the minute we saw them we knew they were exactly right for the kitchen”

ADDRESS BOOK:

The 'Sound' chairs in the kitchen are from Natuzzi.
Visit: www.natuzzi.co.uk or tel. 01322 312 550.

The kitchen was designed and fitted by Diane Berry.
Visit: www.dianeberrykitchens.co.uk or tel. 0161 798 5335.

The master bedroom's en-suite bathroom was designed and fitted by Gary Clegg, now at The Wet Studio, visit: www.thewetstudio.co.uk or tel. 0161 766 2916; formerly at Bathrooms And Design Ideas, visit: www.badideasltd.co.uk or tel. 01204 396 400.

Frank moved into the Coopers' home while the project was ongoing. He would travel down on Sunday afternoons and go home on Friday lunchtimes, using as a bedroom the room that later became the Coopers' office.

Future projects for the Coopers include redesigning the living room and providing walk-in-wardrobes for Cameron and Alex. The two boys inhabit the top level of the three-floor build, which once they're older will no doubt turn into the perfect teenage lads' pad. Touchingly though at the moment Alex chooses to sneak downstairs and sleep in the spare bedroom next to the study on the second floor and across the hall from his parents' bedroom.

"Cameron likes sleeping upstairs," says Helen. "But Alex is only eight and I think he just feels a bit alone up there – and he's never slept in a house on a different floor to us before. The idea is that they have the whole top floor and when they're older they can bring friends back and not disturb us. They've got their own bathroom."

The provision of their own floor for the Cooper boys sums up the ultimate inspiration behind their parents' decision to move and build. "The whole idea of the move was so that Cameron and Alex had a better standard of life, somewhere nicer to grow up and more freedom than what we'd been used to in Whitefield," says Helen. "The school run before used to be a 45-minute standstill on the M60 every morning trying to get to school because it was about 10 miles away from where we lived. Now it's all country lanes and the worst thing that can happen is that you get stuck behind a tractor," she says. "It's just a dream, honestly, an absolute dream."

RIGHT A contemporary chessboard in the home office makes an ideal accessory.
BELOW The Coopers' love of clutter-free, simple style is evident throughout the house.





"The whole idea of the move was so that the children had a better standard of life, somewhere nicer to grow up and more freedom than what we'd been used to"



BATHROOM »»»

Candlelight is always calming in a bathroom, so why not invest in a stylish tealight holder like Helen and Andy have done in their bathroom? Stainless Steel Zack Nenzio Tealight Holder, £28.33, Proleno.





BATHROOM »»»

The Coopers' home is full of sleek contemporary pieces, even in the bathroom. This slim-line radiator from CP Hart would look great in any modern wet room. Hart Badge Human Living Radiator, from £664, CP Hart.

««« KITCHEN

Add a sleek technology 'wow' factor to your dining space with this 'BeoSound 3200' stereo from Bang & Olufsen, priced at £2,180.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Helen and Andy's contemporary self-build home in Cheshire boasts high-end design and simplistic styling. We've scoured the shops to bring you some great buys so that you can steal a bit of the Coopers' style. **For stockist details see page 128**



INDOOR/OUTDOOR AREA »»»

In the Coopers' kitchen/patio area our eyes were immediately caught by the sumptuous Natuzzi Sound Chairs. Plug in your MP3, sit back, relax and let the music play. 'Sound' Chair, from £2,100, Natuzzi.



BATHROOM

Helen loves Jo Malone products and displaying luxury cosmetics is a great way of adding designer interest to a bathroom or dressing table. Travel Scent Surround Kit, £54, Jo Malone.



KITCHEN »»»

A Bombo stool is a classic. In Helen and Andy's contemporary kitchen they've opted for a granite grey, but the stools are available all colours of the rainbow. Stool, £275, Bombo.



««« OUTDOOR SPACE

Take a few tips from the Coopers and brighten up your outdoor furniture with colourful cushions. We've found this cute cushion from Habitat for you. 'Regency' cushion, £25, Habitat.



CLASSIC RETRO

A Victorian gatehouse in suburban Leeds is a treasure trove of hidden gems and retro design classics. We paid a visit to find out more...

Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**



LEFT The living room's colour scheme was based around a vibrant Habitat rug. **THIS PAGE** Antique cabinets and old suitcases add to the vintage feel of the house.



THIS PAGE Stained glass windows and a polished wooden floor are some of the home's original features.
OPPOSITE The kitchen features worktops by Naturally bespoke and J Rotherham, as well as a fish tank housing a blue lobster!

"I THINK THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE BEFORE HAD ACTUALLY CUT THEIR WARDROBE IN HALF TO GET IT UP THE STAIRS!"









From the outside, Asket Lodge resembles a chocolate box house akin to something from a fairy tale, with its neatly trimmed lawn, sharply angled roof and weathered stone brickwork. But take a peek through one of the home's mullioned windows and you'll discover an interior closer in style to that of a 1960s film set. Old leather suitcases stand beside authentic vintage furniture, and classic pieces sit next to one-off antique treasures. "I like to have everything a bit random really; I don't like normal, straightforward things," said Katie Allan, who moved into the house with her husband Jamie last year on returning from their honeymoon in Zanzibar. The small, two-bedroom home is brimming with individuality and bursting with colour; oranges, yellows and greens create a funky interior and quirky details are hiding around every corner.

The couples' main priority when looking for a house was that it wasn't a new-build. "We knew we wanted something old with a bit of character," said Jamie. "This place came up for sale and went to 'best and final offer', and we missed out unfortunately. We were gutted. But four weeks later the estate agent told us the other buyers had pulled out, so we managed to get it, which was great. It's not massive but it's exactly what we wanted. Even though it only has two bedrooms, it's detached, has a garden and it's got a lot of character."

The lodge dates back to the late 1800s when it was used as a gatehouse for Asket Hall, a grand stately home in Roundhay, Leeds, which was demolished in the mid-1900s. "When we first moved in it was liveable," said Jamie. "We did the upstairs first because it didn't need too much doing to it, but we had to raise the stairs a little because we couldn't get any of our furniture up them. I think the people who lived here before had actually cut their wardrobe in half to get it up the stairs!"

After furnishing the first floor, Katie and Jamie turned their attention to the ground floor rooms. The living room forms the hub of the home, but was a tricky space to decorate because of its shape and size. "When you first view a property, you don't really think about where all your furniture could fit, so it was quite a challenge to house everything and make it a workable space," said Katie. "We found the rug in Habitat and that was really the basis for this room. We picked up on the green in the rug and thought it would work well with the orange."

Another consideration was the need to keep the home filled with natural light. "The main thing has been to keep it all quite light and airy," said Katie. "I really wanted to go for something quite interesting with the colours on the walls, but once we tried a few we realised it's just too dark a space." »»»





ADDRESS BOOK:

Jamie and Katie found a lot of their furniture at the Newark International Antiques and Collectors Fair. **www.dmgantiquefairs.com**

The kitchen worktops are by Naturally Bespoke and J Rotherham. **www.naturallybespoke.com / www.jrotherham.co.uk**

The stove in the living room is from Charnwood. **www.charnwood.com**

The radiators are from Castrads. **www.castrads.com**

The kitchen units are from Moores. **www.moores.co.uk**

The light in the kitchen is from Trainspotters. **www.trainspotters.uk.com**



ABOVE AND OPPOSITE Tones of orange, green and purple create the home's funky retro look.

"I REALLY WANTED TO GO FOR SOMETHING QUITE INTERESTING WITH THE COLOURS ON THE WALLS, BUT ONCE WE TRIED A FEW WE REALISED IT'S JUST TOO DARK A SPACE"









The solution for this darkness was to paint the walls off-white and add colour with furniture and accessories. Luckily for Katie and Jamie, Katie's parents had kept a lot of original furniture from the 60s and 70s. A lobster pot stool, 'Tulip' table and chairs and an unusual lamp are just a few of the authentic pieces handed down to the couple. "We've been lucky with what my mum and dad have kept," said Katie. "But I've turned into a bit of a hoarder now because you just never know when things turn into classics. And obviously the table and chairs are back with a vengeance now!"

Alongside the original design classics are one-off pieces which Katie and Jamie have found either online or at auctions and antiques fairs. An old fire extinguisher, wooden filing cabinets (now used for storing clothes!) and small collection of retro clocks are some of the 'finds'. "I'm really good at shopping round so I always do my research, which has probably saved us a fortune," said Katie. "The busts in the bedroom were from a few years ago when I was out with my mum and dad for the weekend. We were driving through a little village and there was a village hall sale, and the busts were outside so I said, 'Stop the car!' and went and got them. It's just about keeping your eyes peeled."

Every inch of space in the home has been put to good use – even an alcove next to the front door in the living room has been transformed into a study. "We don't really use the front door – everyone tends to come round the back, so it was a bit of a waste of space," said Jamie. The chair in this study has an interesting history, as Katie explained: "My mum used to be a hairdresser and would have people round to the house when I was little to cut their hair. That's the chair that she's had for years. That's my attempt at stripping and distressing it, but I got sick of using paint stripper so I stopped and we're just going to leave it like that!"

The most modern room in Katie and Jamie's house is the kitchen, which makes brilliant use of the space available and features a mixture of grey and cream units with bespoke off-white quartz worktops on an original oak floor. A fish tank above the microwave is a quirky addition to the space and is home to several exotic fish and a blue lobster.

Having created their perfect home, the Allans are now looking forward to enjoying the property before throwing themselves into the next challenge, as Jamie explained: "We'd quite like to enjoy the fact that we've done it rather than move on right away. I think we'll stay here for another two or three years, and then we'll probably decide we want to put our mark on something else!"



««« LIVING ROOM
A bright rug helps lift a room, especially if the rest of your palette is fairly neutral – so lift your living space with this fantastic patterned number. Rug, £399, Habitat.



LIVING ROOM »»»
In the living room the Allans have used this cute stove. We love the idea of creating a cosy living room with a striking alternative to a traditional open fire. 'Island I' stove in Almond, £1,344, Charnwood.



KITCHEN
Add a quirky element to your kitchen like Katie and Jamie by putting fun letters up on the wall. We found these recycled chunky 3D letters from Northumberland-based company RE (www.re-foundobjects.com). Letters, £16 each, RE.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Katie and Jamie Allan's Victorian gatehouse has a distinctly kitsch feel to it. We love the way they've mixed modern classics with antique treasures and authentic vintage finds. Now you can get the look too... **For stockist details see page 128**

HALLWAY
Give your home a retro vibe with some vintage suitcases. Not only do they look great but they double-up as clever storage too. Vintage suitcases, from £20, The Scottish Antique & Arts Centre.





LIVING ROOM »»»
Katie and Jamie have added a design classic to their living room with an 'Eames' lounger. Sat in the corner it makes the ultimate statement. Treat yourself to an original too. 'Eames' lounge chair and ottoman, £4,490, Heal's.



LIVING AREA »»»
Pretty bright vases and glassware make eye-catching accessories in any living space. Source yours from vintage stores or LSA International has a fantastic range. 'Vivi' red vases, from £17.75, both LSA International.



DINING ROOM »»» »»»
What better way to dine than sat at a 'Saarinen Tulip' dining table? To complete the look splash out and add four 'Tulip' chairs. 'Saarinen Tulip' dining table, £1,208, and 'Tulip' dining chair, £771, The Lollipop Shoppe.


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Compiled by **Katie Cotgrave**



'Aphrodite' bed, £2,250,
And So To Bed.





BIG &
BOLD

BEDS

Cosy up in our pick of statement beds, now there's one more reason to have a huge weekend lie-in.

1 'Rodin' bed, £4,075, And So To Bed. 2 'Diamante' bed, P.O.A, Bontempi Casa. 3 'Roma' bed, £749, Living It Up. 4 'Lovina' bed, from £995, Lombok. 5 'Alchemy' bedroom collection, from £17,000, Smallbone of Devizes. 6 'Presotto Zero' bed, P.O.A, Bianchi Furniture.











All photographed on display in our showroom










1


3


2

CRISP & CLEAN

BED LINEN

Sleep in luxury in the comfort of one of these gorgeous bed linen treats.

1 'Eva bed linen, from £15, Also Home. 2 'Fantine' by Linea, from £12 for a pillowcase, House Of Fraser. 3 'Verona Egyptian' bedlinen, from £32 for a pillowcase, And So To Bed. 4 Silk sheets & pillowcases, from £45, Gingerlily. 5 'Florence' bed linen, £95, The French Bedroom Company.


4



5


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CHIC

1 Silver mirror, £27.99, Lisbeth Dahl. 2 Faux silk lamp, £14.99, Dunelm Mill. 3 Cupid clock, £24.99, The Contemporary Home. 4 'Parker' cushion, £39.16, Laura Ashley.



CONTEMPORARY

1 Starburst wall clock, £65, John Lewis. 2 Clay leaf vase, £149, PUJI.
3 'Copenhagen' flowerpot light by Verner Panton, £245, Cloudberry Living.
4 'Graphitis' collection, from £634 for a table lamp, Roche Bobois.



WHITE

1 White washed trunks, £68.53 for set of 2, Laura Ashley. **2** White embroidered cushion, £12.99, Dunelm Mill. **3** Orchid vase, £40, John Lewis. **4** 'Clarice' lamp, £75, The White Company.



SILVER

1 Vintage wall clock, £25, Purves & Purves. **2** Pineapple pendant light, £49, Pussy Home Boutique. **3** Light shade by Moooi, £1,652, Rume. **4** 'Menu' jewellery trees, £34.94 each, Amaroni.



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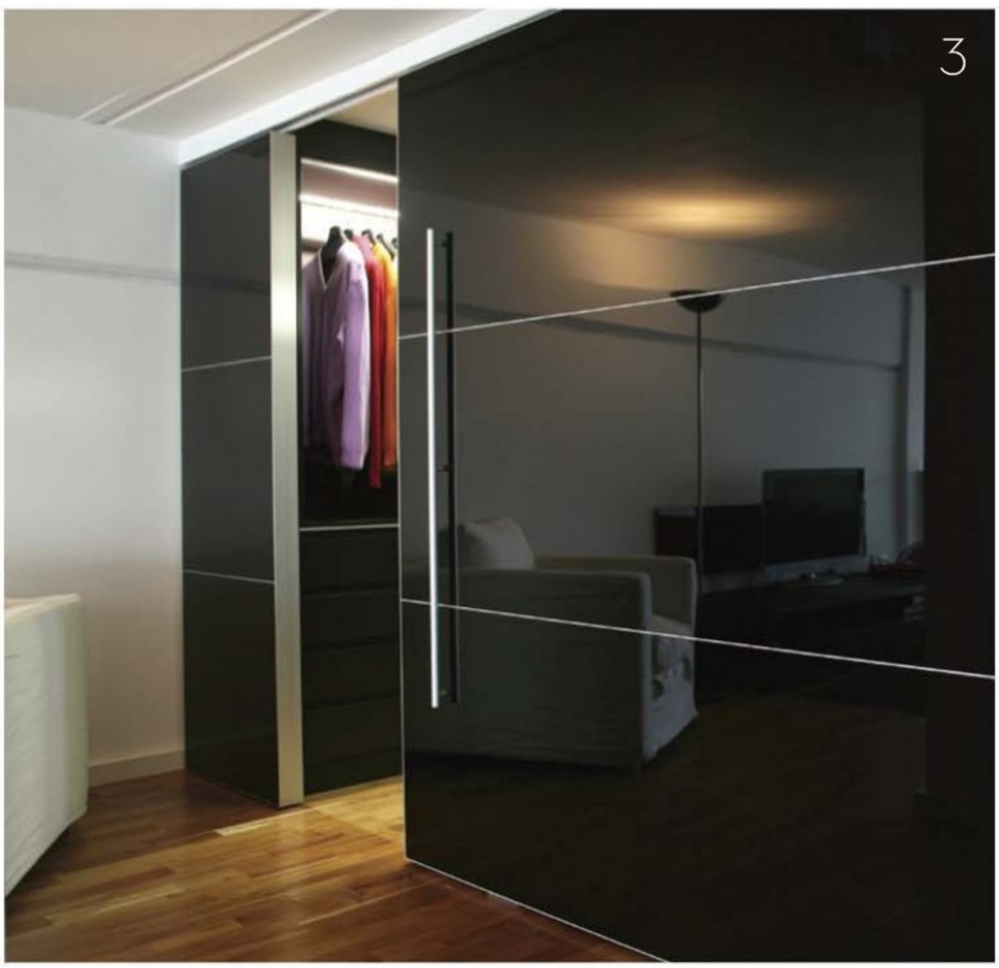
TALL & GRAND

WARDROBES

With the latest sleek styles and high-gloss options what more could you ask for from a wardrobe? Here are our favourites.

1 'Presotto Varius' closet, P.O.A, Bianchi Furniture. 2 'Stello' wardrobe, from £7,331, Roche Bobois. 3 Sliding wardrobe doors, from £1,500, Parapan. 4 High gloss wardrobe, £445, Dwell. 5 Single door wardrobe, £760, Laura Ashley. 6 'Papillon' wardrobe, £699, Ivory Pearl Interiors.

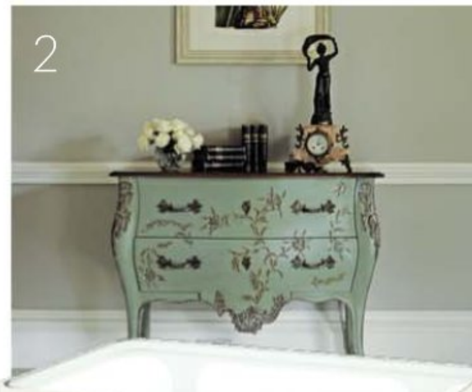








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SIMPLE & PRETTY

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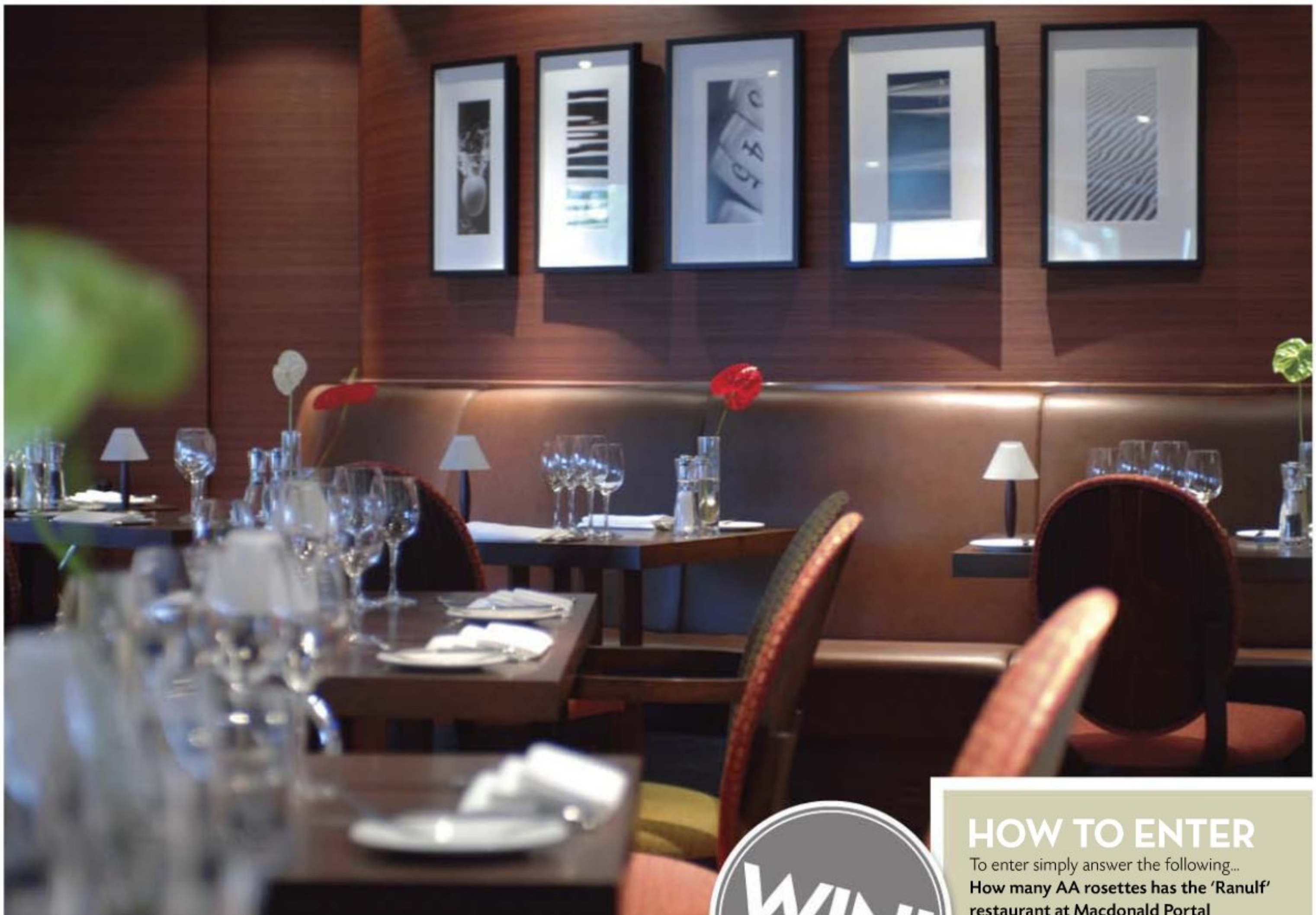

CHESTS & SIDE TABLES

These chic chests and sleek side tables are the perfect storage option without compromising on style.

1 'Provencal' 3-drawer desk, £340, The French Bedroom Company. 2 Floral 2-drawer chest, £1,925, And So To Bed. 3 'Trace' side table, from £395, Naughtone. 4 Blue bedside table, £495, Graham & Green. 5 Carved wooden cabinet, £49.99, Dunelm Mill. 6 'Colonial' 2-drawer side table, £165, Sweetpea & Willow.







WIN!

A LUXURY SPA BREAK FOR TWO

Thanks to 'Indulge in Cheshire' you could win a mini spa break for two at Macdonald Portal Hotel, Golf & Spa in Cheshire.



This smart hotel is one of the finest in Cheshire, and enjoys a peaceful rural location near the pretty village of Tarporley with views over the Cheshire Plain. A night of indulgence and pampering will be the treat for our lucky prize winner and guest.

Concept For Living has teamed up with 'Indulge in Cheshire' to offer one reader and a guest of their choice an overnight stay at Macdonald Portal Hotel, Golf & Spa in Cheshire, which will include accommodation in a beautifully designed 'Feature' bedroom, with a separate seating area and a balcony from which you may enjoy the views of the surrounding beautiful Cheshire countryside, dinner for two in the spacious and welcoming 'Ranulf' restaurant (awarded two AA rosettes), which also has fantastic panoramic views and a great atmosphere. Chef's specialities include Wild Sea Bass and Fennel Risotto and Pan Roasted Venison with a Thyme Jus.

The winner and their guest will also be able to enjoy cocooning themselves in the hotel's award-winning spa, with its 18m indoor pool, rock sauna, aroma steam and ice rooms, eight candle-lit treatment rooms and for the actively inclined, the latest Techno-gym equipment. A full body Decléor aromatherapy massage (55 minutes per person) is also included in this lovely prize.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter simply answer the following...

How many AA rosettes has the 'Ranulf' restaurant at Macdonald Portal Hotel, Golf & Spa been awarded?

A None **B** One **C** Two

Email your answer to: competitions@conceptforliving.co.uk. Type 'Indulge Cheshire Competition' in the subject box and state your name, address and daytime telephone number. Or, post your entry to: Indulge Cheshire Competition, *Concept For Living*, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester, CH4 9AJ. Closing date for all entries is midnight 15 September 2009.

For more ideas and inspiration on where to eat, shop, pamper and sleep in Cheshire, please visit www.indulgeincheshire.com

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Terms and conditions apply. Prize is subject to availability and must be taken by 20 December 2009. To include overnight accommodation for two sharing a 'Feature' bedroom, three-course dinner in 'Ranulf', massage per person as described, plus use of all spa facilities and full English breakfast. Pre-booking is required.

Indulge in Cheshire

MACDONALD PORTAL HOTEL GOLF & SPA



Classic Marble Collection, €310 per tile, Sicis.

TILES WITH STYLE

There's no bolder way to make a statement than with tiles. We love the great new choices available, from black to bright, shimmer to stone, take your pick from these gorgeous tile and mosaic options...

SLEEK MONOCHROME

Add a sophisticated touch with black and white.





FROM LEFT 'Arctic' and 'Jet', from £31.22 per pack of five, Johnson Tiles. 'Carbono' in Grafito, Nacar and Silver, from £72.45 per sq m, Craven Dunnill. 'Bianco Nero' tile, £46.10, Villeroy & Boch. 'Grespania, Bauhaus', £38 per sq m., Tile Of Spain. 'Rose' from the Wet Collection, £24 per tile, British Ceramic Tile. 'Rakaposhi' mosaics, £109.95 per sq m, Original Style.

BRILLIANT BRIGHTS

Create a lasting impression with a vibrant splash of colour.





FROM LEFT 'Haute Provence' in Blue, £329.11 per sq m, Fired Earth. 'Moonlight Glow' tile, £80.21, Villeroy & Boch. 'Tau, Chebbi', £56 per sq m, Tile Of Spain.







CHIC SHIMMER

Make sure your home dazzles by offering a touch of lustre.







FROM LEFT 'Chasseur' brushed metal mosaics, £254.89 per sq m, Original Style. 'Metallismo' collection, P.O.A., Sicis. 'Neutrals Lustre Glass Mosaic' tiles in Ivory, £294.75 per sq m, Fired Earth.

PRETTY PATTERNS

Give your home a cute quirk with a pleasing print.

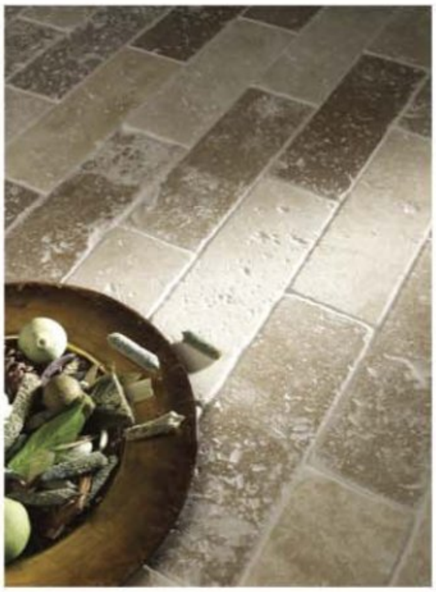



Design by Carlo Dal Bianco. Photo by Ottavio Tomasini


FROM LEFT 'Shadow Spirits' wall tiles, £22.75 each, Fired Earth. 'Apavisa, Patina', £43 per sq m, Tile Of Spain. 'Glass Flowers' in Pink, P.O.A., Bisazza. Aimee tile, £245.39, Villeroy & Boch.

STYLISH STONE

Opt for elegance and simplicity with classic stone.


FROM LEFT 'Ceracasa, Evasion', £29.57 per sq m, Tile Of Spain. 'Verona', P.O.A., Tile Depot. 'St-one Mosaic', £71.15 per sq m, Craven Dunnill.


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GLOBAL TREND UPDATE

From Paris to New York, Madrid to Milan we bring you the latest hot interior trends from our favourite design cities around the world.

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'Corola' sofa, from £3,963, Roche Bobois.



1

DENMARK & NORWAY

Scandinavian design offers simple, solid elegance. We've focused on Denmark and Norway, but don't forget Finland and Sweden too. These Danish designs and Norwegian finds reveal functional practicality and sleek sophistication.



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1 'Occa' dining table, £449, BoConcept. 2 'Little Claus' black and white, from €240, Normann Copenhagen. 3 'BL9XL' light, P.O.A, Bestlite. 4 Natural flooring, P.O.A, Dinesen. 5 'Sideways' chair by Formel, P.O.A, Håg.

OSLO **THINK** COPENHAGEN & OSLO **THINK** COPENHAGEN & OSLO **THINK** COPENHAGEN & OSLO **THINK** COPENHAGEN & O

ITALY

Boasting some of the best fashion designers you can find, Versace, Gucci, Prada and glamorous interior brands such as Alessi and B&B Italia, not to mention the annual Salone del Mobile in Milan, Italy continues to be a hotbed for new trends and talent.



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1 'Sidewall' bookcase, P.O.A, Porro. **2** 'Opus Circular' light, P.O.A, Lolli e Memmoli. **3** Glamour' light, P.O.A, Terzani. **4** 'Grand Papilloi' chair by Naoto Fukasawa, from £2,094, B&B Italia. **5** 'La Rosa' basket, from £44, Alessi. **6** 'Lui' collection, P.O.A, Fratelli Boffi. **7** 'Leros Travolino' table, P.O.A, Frag.

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KITCHENS · BEDROOMS · BATHROOMS · HOME STUDIES



SPAIN

From the architecture of Barcelona to the café culture of Madrid it's easy to see how Spain continues to be a bright, relaxed patron and manufacturer of design. We've picked a trio of products from some of the most well known Spanish designers.





1 'Eclipse' tables, P.O.A, Stua. 2 'Equus' collection, P.O.A, Lladró. 3 'La Nueva' collection, P.O.A, Saloni Cerámica.

ADRID **THINK** MADRID **THINK** MADRID **THINK** MADRID **THINK** MADRID **THINK** MADRID **THINK** MADRID **THINK** MADRID T

AMERICA

Offering equal measures of west coast cool and east coast chic this big vibrant daybed is a future classic.

Daybed by George Nelson, £4,229, The Lollipop Shoppe.

ONE WE LOVE



HINK NEW YORK **THINK** NEW YORK **THINK** NEW YORK **THINK** NEW YORK **THINK** NEW YORK **THINK** NEW YORK **THINK** NE

FRANCE

France and its capital hosts interior show Maison et Object and the eternally chic Paris remains a strong leader for showcasing the best fashions and furniture designs. Here are a few of the biggest brands and their latest collections and designs.

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1 'Bahut' sideboard designed by Jean Provué, £5,648, The Lollipop Shoppe. 2 'Curule' chairs, £741, Ligne Roset. 3 'Dwarf' lamp, £180, Bodie and Fou. 4 'Littlebig' chair, P.O.A, Cerruti Baleri. 5 Star pendant light, £85, Bodie and Fou. 6 'Rythme' sofa, P.O.A, Roche Bobois.

THINK PARIS THINK PARIS THINK PARIS THINK PARIS THINK PARIS THINK PARIS THINK PARIS THINK PARIS THINK PARIS

DESIGNER FAVOURITES

We asked a trio of Northern designers to pick the new international pieces they're loving the most right now...

ADDRESS BOOK

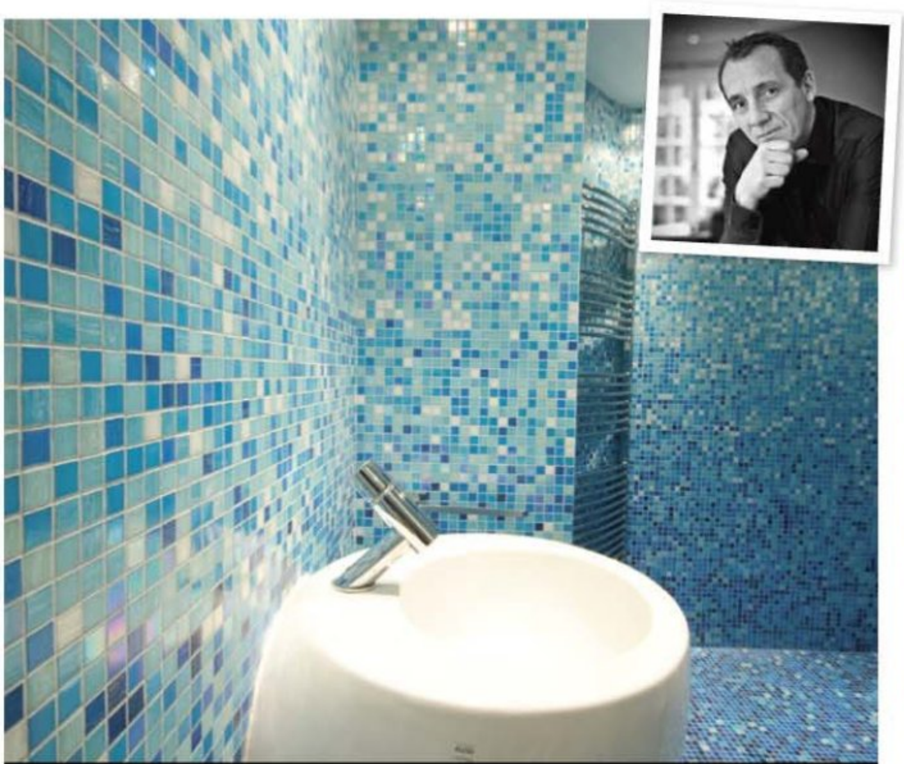
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The French Bedroom Company www.frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk
The Lollipop Shoppe www.thelollipopshoppe.co.uk





Neil Rankin of Simon Green Interiors

"My favourite international product has to be B&B Italia's shapely Fat sofa seating, designed by Patricia Urquiola. The range is made up of many soft, rounded elements, including armchairs in three sizes, modular sofa elements and ottomans. As well as being exquisite to look at and very comfortable, it is extremely versatile as it can be upholstered in a multitude of fabrics and leathers."

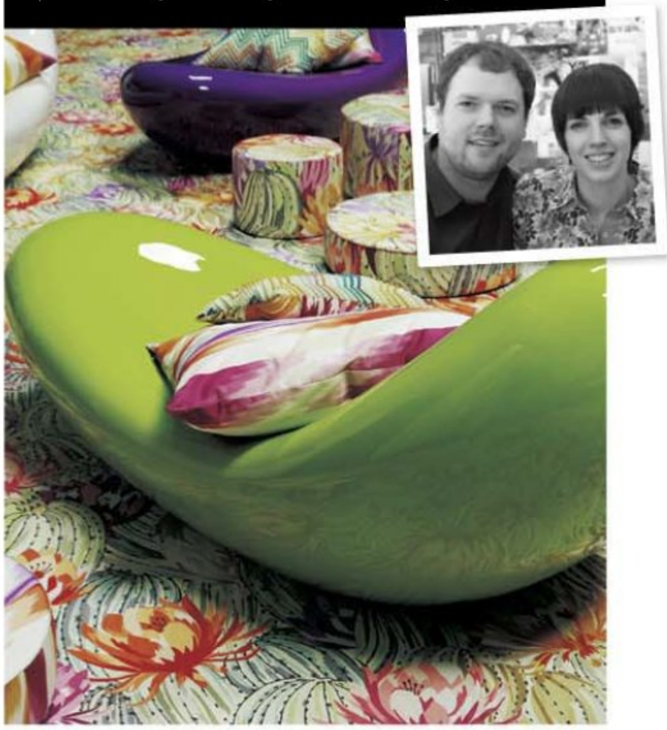


Chris Oakes, director of Huntsmere properties

"One company's trends that I follow with interest is Italy's Bisazza who are revered across the world for their stunning glass mosaics. We have used the mosaics in all of our recent projects and the quality of the tiles gives a unique sparkle that you simply don't get with more standard products."

Ben and Lucy Clarke of Curve Interior Design

"An Italian product was an obvious choice being world leaders in fashion and design! The beautifully designed Petal lounger from Missoni Home combines perfectly with the Echinopsis print to create a fabulous look for indoors or out, perfect for a pool side or any area where you wish to relax in style!"





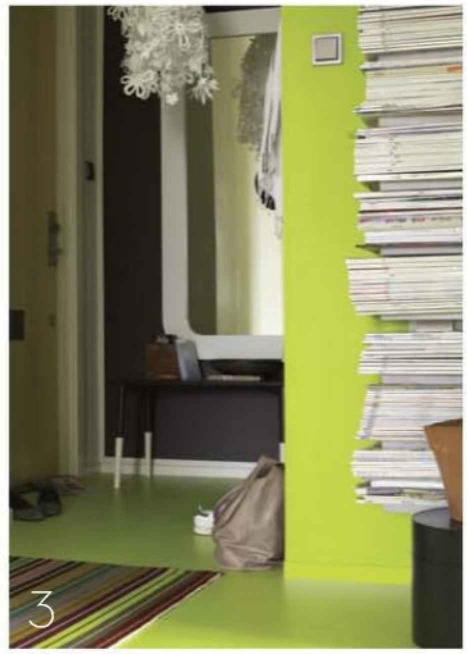
'Garden' matt emulsion, from £24 for 2.5l; Woodwork paint: Whitening 'Acrylic Eggshell' paint, £32 for 2.5l, both Little Greene.

MAKING AN ENTRANCE

First impressions matter, so guarantee your home makes an instant impact and create a perfect hallway with a chic staircase, modern paint choice, gorgeous stair runner or cute post box.











1 'New Hadley' stair runner, £95 per metre, Roger Oates. **2** 'Trompe L'oeil' wood panelling, from £65 per sq m, White Allom Studio. **3** Green wall: 'Elegant Helmatt' paint in Pemba Grön, £29.49 for 3l; Floor: 'Golvfärg' floor paint in Pemba Gron, £17.99 for 1l; Black wall: 'Elegant Helmatt' paint in Bububu Svart, £29.49 for 3l, all Beckers. **4** 'The Bamboo Papers' wallpaper, £62 per 10m roll, Farrow & Ball. **5** Bespoke staircase, from £20,000, Bisca.





6 Bespoke hallway pieces, prices on application, Montana Hallways. **7** 'Silver pine' flooring, £22.99 per m sq, Pergo.

IF YOU DO ONE THING...

ADD FRESH FLOWERS!

'Sophia' flowers, £75, Jane Packer.



3 OF THE BEST...

ACCESSORIES

Give your entrance space a welcoming lift in record speed with an eye-catching rug, cute coat hook or useful *and* pretty letter box...



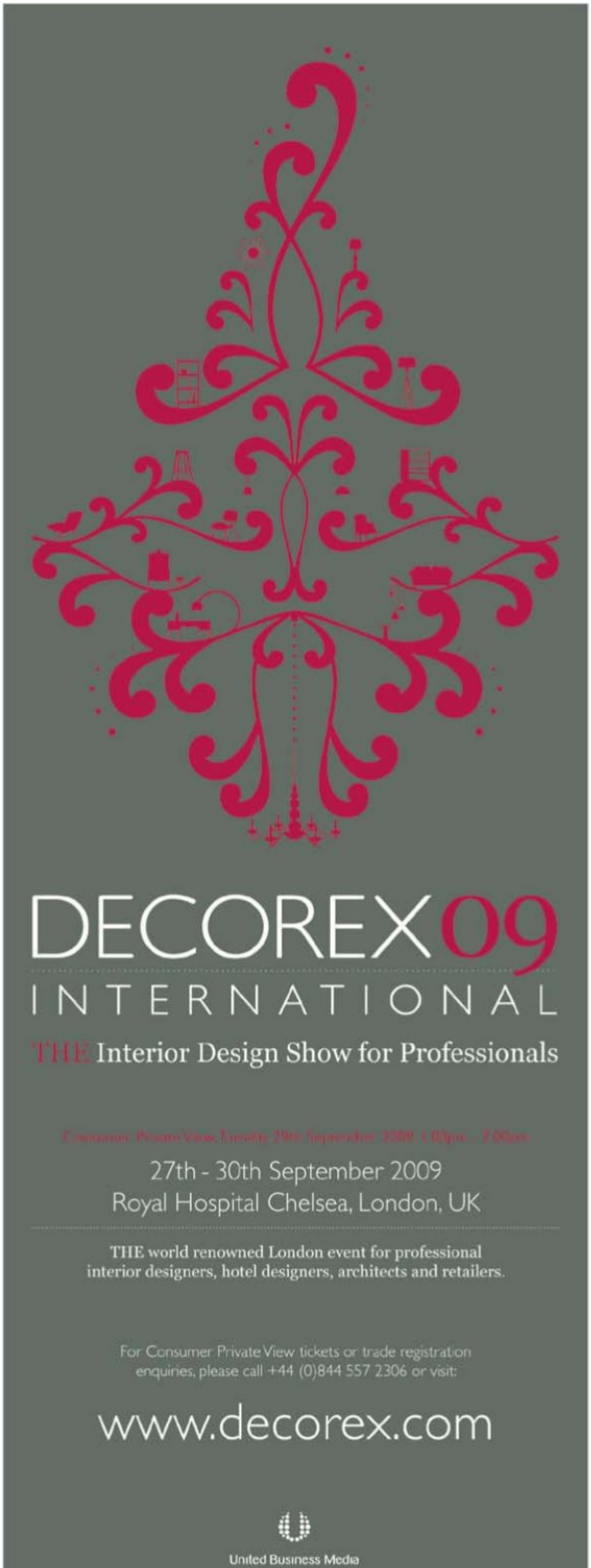
Coats and hats hook, £47.96, Bombay Duck.

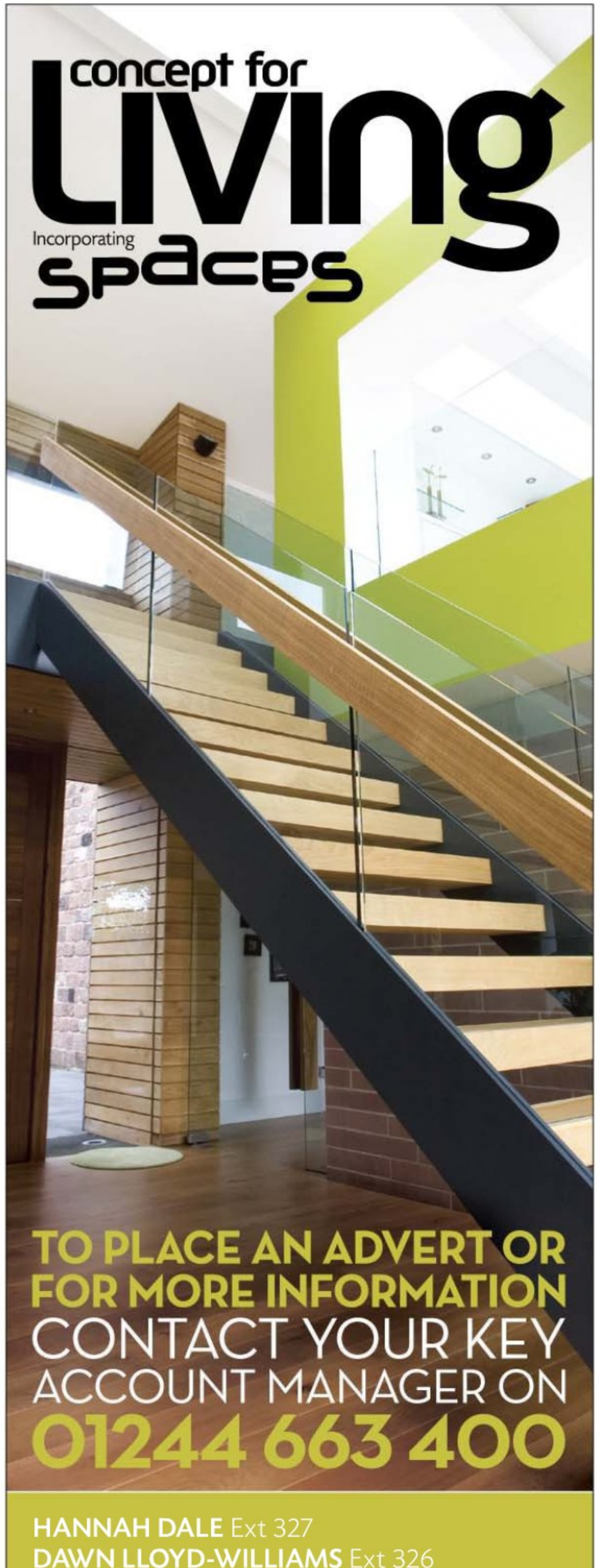


'Keep Calm' rug, £345, Pedlars.



Wire mail box, £12.60, Cox & Cox.


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RHS SHOW TATTON PARK 2009

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

There are cars queuing along the country lanes of Mere, the weather is presenting a heady mix of drizzly rain and bright sunshine, and beyond the walls of Tatton Park there's a whirlwind display of vibrant flowers and lush foliage. It can only be the RHS Show Tatton Park, now in its 11th year of showcasing the best in garden design and community gardening.

VISIONARY GARDENS

Six garden designers were chosen from hundreds of applicants to exhibit in the RHS Show's new Visionary Gardens category. Tasked with creating gardens focusing on artistic concepts, future fashions and environmental implications, the designers came up with six very different interpretations of innovative gardening.



3 FIANN Ó NUALLÁIN 'LEVITATE ME' **AWARD: SILVER-GILT FLORA**
'Levitate Me' is an earth mound celebrating the cultural and mythological heritage of Fiann's homeland, Ireland. It represents the potential for personal transformation through art and creativity by hovering above the ground like a spaceship.





1 SHEENA SEEKS 'TIME AND THE BELL' **AWARD: GOLD**
The inspiration behind Sheena Seeks's visionary garden is the perception of time. The garden makes reference to two of history's great scientists: Einstein, whose theory that all time exists at once is represented by the central white cone; and Newton whose ideas are represented by the apple tree. Sheena was excited to be taking part in the show's new category: "I love it, I think it's just made for me. This is my first ever show garden; I'm an artist originally and I've exhibited as a sculptor, but had never really thought about the transition of a garden being a piece of art. I think it's just that; a living piece of art."



2 WELSH COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE 'GLYNDWR'S VISION' **AWARD: SILVER-GILT FLORA**
A garden with an educational theme, 'Glyndwr's Vision' celebrates the new University of Glyndwr. Black acrylic triangles represent the Black Mountains of South Wales, with mirrored glass symbolising the rivers of mid Wales. The flowers are the corporate colours of the University. Designer Peter Styles is in favour of the new Visionary Gardens category: "It's totally different from anything else. I think there's going to be a lot of people saying, 'What's all this about?' But I think it's wonderful, it's pushing the boundaries of design and opening up a new area for people who perhaps would not have thought about doing garden design."

4 MARCUS GREEN HORTICULTURAL DESIGN 'TIME' **AWARD: SILVER FLORA**
'Time' is inspired by the rhythm of the changing seasons on the rural landscape, and represents the cyclical nature of life. The saplings, young tree and sculpture symbolise the life cycle.



4

5 ALAN GARDNER DESIGN 'A DECONSTRUCTED WORLD' **AWARD: SILVER FLORA**
'A Deconstructed World' is a timely addition to this new category as it represents the recession. Designer Alan Gardner explained: "The trenches were originally a grid that the banks operated on. Now they've got curved and distorted due to the recession, which has pushed up mounds of the ground. The plants in the trenches are really bad pernicious weeds: they're the loan sharks of the situation. The white-painted grid is the banks trying to put the grid back, and when viewed from above it goes all the way across the site." The photographs of the sky are also symbolic: "Some of the clouds are thunderstorms and some are fair weather clouds; those are the highs and lows within the recession itself."



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6 ALAN BURNS AND PHILIP DUGDALE 'CUBED3' **AWARD: GOLD, BEST VISIONARY GARDEN**
'Cubed3' is an industrial yet lush garden based on a modular layout. A network of steel gabions creates the structure, which seems to emerge from the ground. "We wanted to contrast the harsh steel with the lushness of the planting," said Philip Dugdale. Philip and Alan Burns are students at Leeds Metropolitan University and the garden is their first full project. "It's been hard work but it's been worth it. We're really pleased. We're definitely going to exhibit again, but the prospect is hard because there's only one way you can go from Gold. We've already started designing the next one; it's going to be the big one, because we've got to top this!"



AUGHTON GREEN LANDSCAPES & THE BIG POND COMPANY 'TIME OUT'
AWARD: SILVER FLORA



RAYNERSHINE LTD 'STRICTLY COME GARDENING'
AWARD: GOLD



JON TILLEY, DRAGONFLY GARDEN DESIGN & BUILD
'RADIO – LIVE TRANSMISSION'
AWARD: SILVER FLORA



DGS LIFESTYLE 'SO 80s'
AWARD: SILVER FLORA



PHILLIPPA PROBERT, OUTER SPACES 'REVOLUTION'
AWARD: SILVER FLORA



SHOW GARDENS

Always a crowd-pleaser, this year's Show Gardens offered a variety of the traditional and the contemporary, with a few references to popular music and culture in the form of a Joy Division garden and a design inspired by reality TV show *Strictly Come Dancing*.

BACK TO BACK
GARDENS

Providing inspiration for those with smaller gardens were the Back to Back Gardens, key themes of which were fruit and vegetable growing and urban environments.



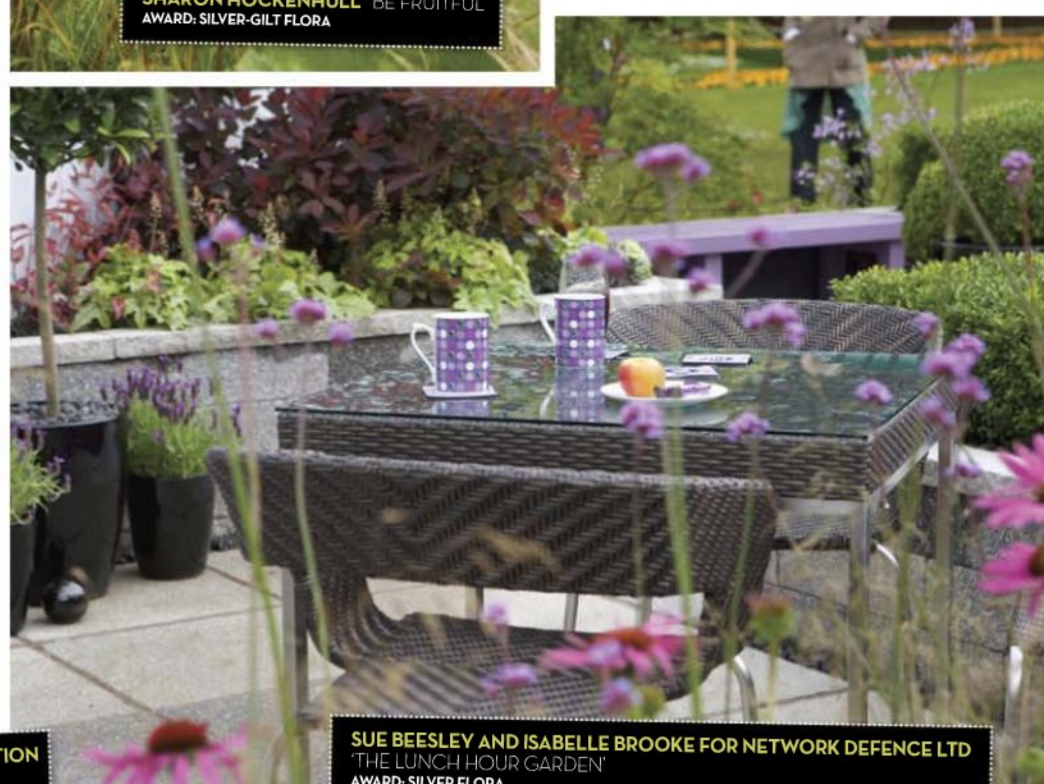
BERNIE QUINN, BAREFOOT 'LOSE THE SHOES'
AWARD: SILVER FLORA



SHARON HOCKENHULL 'BE FRUITFUL'
AWARD: SILVER-GILT FLORA



SAM YOUD, TATTON PARK – CHESHIRE'S GARDENS OF DISTINCTION
'THE HERMIT'S GROTTO – INSPIRATION FOR IMAGINATION'
AWARD: GOLD



SUE BEESLEY AND ISABELLE BROOKE FOR NETWORK DEFENCE LTD
'THE LUNCH HOUR GARDEN'
AWARD: SILVER FLORA



HIS

'Montmatre' desk, £2,065, Barker and Stonehouse. 'Louis Ghost' black chair, £149, Barker and Stonehouse. Leopard print cushion, £70, Jan Constantine. Chrome desk lamp, £32.99, Lisbeth Dahl. Dice, £12.95, Barker and Stonehouse. 'Casa' desk organiser, £ 31.70, Guzzini. MAX 365 calendar, £36, The Lollipop Shoppe. White Colombo Phone, £39.99, The Lollipop Shoppe. Silver cup, £10.95, Barker and Stonehouse. Mp3 Doc, stylist's own. 'Iguana' magazine file, £13, Heal's. Selection of notebooks, from £5, Paperchase. Organiser pen, £20, Filofax.

HIS vs HERS OFFICE

Whether you're looking to spruce up your work space or searching for some key essentials, we bring you all the accessories you'll need to be proud of your office.

For stockists see page 128.

Stylist **Katie Cotgrave**
Photographer **Eleri Griffiths**



HERS

'Ornanes' desk, £199, Barker and Stonehouse. Drawer handles on desk, stylist's own. 'Louis Ghost' clear chair, £149, Barker and Stonehouse. Velvet diamante cushion, £69, Jan Constantine. Cream desk lamp, £31.99, Lisbeth Dahl. Electric flowers white pencil case, £8, Cath Kidston. Paper weight, £21.95, Barker and Stonehouse. White pen pot, £13.50, Absolut Form. Glasses, stylist's own. Spring blue Radio, £200, Roberts Radio. White magazine box, £4, Store. Travel notebook, £7.34 each, Colloco.

Daisy...... Daisy......











elephant designer beanbags

Oversized and generously filled, Elephant beanbags definitely live up to their name and are a cost-effective way of injecting funky colour and designer prints into kids' bedrooms, family rooms, games rooms and teenage dens. Go for a single splash or group two or three together for a paint-box effect – Elephants look even better in herds! These versatile seating solutions are great for parties and sleepovers, providing soft support for all the family in durable, wipe-clean fabrics. Better yet, the Jumbos weigh in at a mighty 140cm x 180cm.

Visit www.elephantbeanbags.co.uk to view our full range, request colour swatches and order. Or call 01386 423760

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elephant™



Stylist **Katie Cotgrave**
Photographer **Eleri Griffiths**

TEN OF THE **BEST**

KITCHEN SCALES

Weigh up your options with our collection of sleek scales.

For stockists see page 128

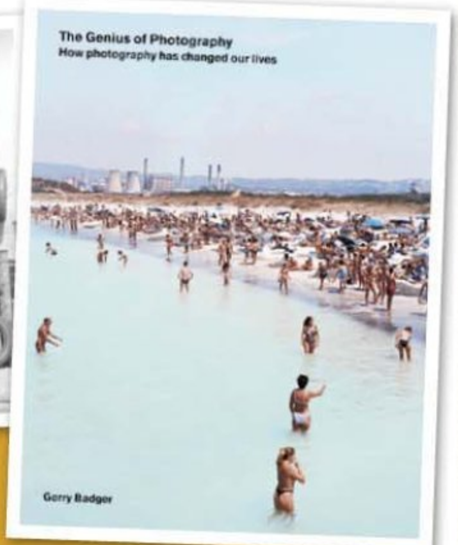
Compiled by Jennie Musgrove

DISCOVERY **SPACE**

We've ventured far from the beaten track this month to bring you an interview with Pedlars founder Charlie Gladstone, an eco-friendly restaurant in Dorset and a reissued design classic, the Criss Cross Bubble Lamp.

For stockists see page 128.





BOOKMARK

The Genius of Photography

Author: Gerry Badger

What is it that makes a photograph taken by Nan Goldin or Henri Cartier-Bresson stand out among the millions of others taken by other people every single day? *The Genius of Photography* sets out to explore the making of a truly great photograph, through some of the key events, personalities and images since the earliest days of photography in the 1840s.

Each of the book's six chapters is accompanied by 20 or so iconic images which illustrate the issues and themes examined. All the different genres of photography are put under Gerry Badger's microscope – from art and reportage to landscape and portraiture.

In an age when cameras are more accessible than ever before (you only have to look as far as your mobile phone), the underlying issues this book discusses make for interesting reading: can we 'believe' a photograph? How does a photographer deal with history? Why is photography the melancholy art?

This book provides insightful and enlightening reading for anyone with an interest in one of the most important art forms of the 21st century.

Published by Quadrille Publishing
Available now
Price: £25
www.quadrille.co.uk





MAKE SPACE FOR...

Modernica Bubble Lamp

A wonderfully retro piece is the Criss Cross Bubble Lamp, which was out of production for decades but has recently been reissued by online company Modernica. George Nelson developed the Bubble Lamp in 1947 after purchasing a high-end Swedish spherical hanging lamp for his new office. He wanted to design a lighting fixture which had a similar look, but was more cost effective; and so the Criss Cross Bubble Lamp was born. Howard Miller produced the lamps from 1952 until they were discontinued in 1979. So iconic is the Bubble Lamp that it is featured in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The lamp is now available in four designs: Saucer, Cigar, Pear and Ball Criss Cross Lamp – we at *Concept* can't wait to get our hands on one, just as soon as we've decided which style to go for...
Modernica Bubble Lamp, from £295, SCP Furniture. www.scp.co.uk

THE MAGIC THREE

Bar Stools

Take a seat on one of these super-contemporary barstools.



Magino Bar Stool by Karim Rashid, £350, Heal's
www.heals.co.uk

ONDA Swivel Bar Stool 65, £201, Funktionalley
www.funktionalley.com

Happy Bar Stool, price on application, Skandium
www.skandium.co.uk



Charlie and Caroline Gladstone

ON OUR RADAR
Charlie Gladstone

Seventeen years ago, Charlie Gladstone and his family left their comfortable London pad and moved to a Victorian shooting lodge in rural Scotland. From here, Charlie and his wife Caroline set up Pedlars, a mail order shop selling a quirky mix of home products, most of which are made in Britain. Pedlars now has stores in London, Birmingham and North Wales. ***We chat to Charlie to find out what makes him tick.***

HOW IS YOUR WORK INFLUENCED BY WHERE YOU LIVE?
It is influenced on every level. I live and work – most of the time – deep in the Highlands of Scotland. I am happier and more creative when I am close to nature and Pedlars has been created to reflect the life we lead in The Highlands; our customers relate to that. Most of my ideas are inspired by the countryside.

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?
Particularly, my wife and six children. And my friends, sunshine, rain, dogs, music, books, running, furniture, swimming, volleyball, honeysuckle... actually, most things.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?
Does my house count? If not, my Mark Wallinger work, 'Ghost'.

IF YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
Tokyo.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT?
A new concession in Selfridges, London. A larger farm shop (we have a planning application lodged). A development of six eco homes, with offices and a workshop attached in Scotland. The best holiday house in Scotland (in a 1560s castle), which we are decorating. And a brand new pub. Pedlars is an exciting place to be.

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN THE FILM OF YOUR LIFE?
Tintin.

WHAT'S THE BEST BOOK YOU'VE EVER READ?
Anything by Hergé.

WHAT IS YOUR GUILTIEST PLEASURE?
ELO.

IF YOU WERE A SUPERHERO, WHAT WOULD YOUR SUPER POWER BE?
To grow money in my pocket.

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
To when my great, great grandfather was Prime Minister. He was incredible and he casts a long shadow.

WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU SAW THAT REALLY INSPIRED YOU?
Every day I see stuff that inspires me. But I was in New York last week and saw some of the best shops I have ever seen. Unlike Londoners, New Yorkers have responded to the recession with creativity.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON LIFE HAS TAUGHT YOU?
It takes strength to be gentle and kind (actually Morrissey said that, but he had a point).

TELL US A SECRET
I didn't like *Slumdog Millionaire*.

AUTUMN OR SPRING?
Spring. Neon green beats neon orange, just.

CITY OR COUNTRYSIDE?
Countryside.

MODERN OR VINTAGE?
Vintage.

WWW.PEDLARS.CO.UK



Tolix Stackable Stool, £129.50, Blanket woven in Ireland, 100% Pure New Wool, £79, both Pedlars



WEBSPACE
www.anzulondon.blogspot.com

London-based design company Anzu produces beautiful hand-painted cards and stationery, and celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Illustrator and designer Ellen McGrath writes an inspiring blog featuring fashion, art, design, and anything else that inspires Anzu's chic designs. *Concept For Living* loves the blog's insightful look into the life of an illustrator.



IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN DORSET
Rhodes South Restaurant, Christchurch

Rhodes South is the UK's first carbon positive restaurant and is the latest offering from celebrity chef Gary Rhodes. Located in the magnificent grounds of the Christchurch Harbour Hotel in Dorset, the restaurant offers classic British cuisine with a French influence including fresh seafood and a wide range of seasonal dishes.

The timber structure with floor-to-ceiling glass windows is a great place to visit throughout the day and an ideal location for a romantic meal at sunset.

The restaurant's eco-friendly credentials are second to none: it's made entirely from natural materials from sustainable resources and is completely toxin free, with no chemicals having been used in construction.

Since opening its doors in November 2008, Rhodes South has gained an enviable reputation for its superb menu, reasonable prices and beautiful location – so if you're lucky enough to visit the Southwest this year, be sure to drop in.

Open Tuesday to Saturday for lunch or dinner.
www.rhodes-south.co.uk

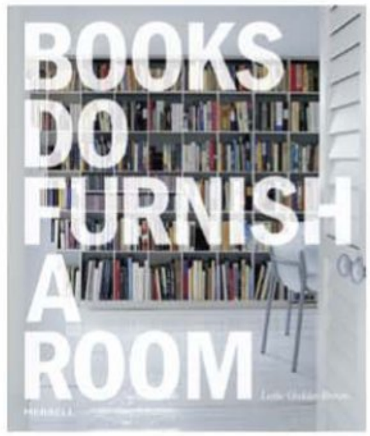


COFFEE TABLE

Check out great decorating ideas, catch up on kitchens, get crafty or learn how to use books as decoration with our pick of the best books around.









Home-made Vintage

BY CHRISTINA STRUTT
Published by CICO Books
Available September 2009
Price £12.99
www.cicobooks.co.uk

Brimming with old world charm, *Home-made Vintage* by Cabbages and Roses founder Christina Strutt, is packed with inspiring ideas for decorating your home. Her 44 quick and easy sewing projects cover every room in your home, so there is something for everyone, from updating your bedroom or bathroom right through to making unusual gifts for family and friends.

Divided into easy definable sections, including living, clothes and accessories, the first half of the book not only provides inspirational images of each project, but offers advice on choosing and using vintage fabrics and remnants in order to create these inexpensive yet unique creative pieces. Check out muslin canopies, cupboard door panels, holiday stockings, practical aprons and pretty brooches to name but a few. While the latter section is dedicated to clear step-by-step instructions and illustrations that ensure perfect results every time.

A must-have for all those looking to create a home full of country cottage appeal.

A Girl's Guide to Decorating

BY ABIGAIL AHERN
Published by Quadrille
Available now
Price £16.99
www.quadrille.co.uk

If you are looking to transform your humble home into a fabulously stylish pad without spending loads of money, then style guru Abigail Ahern's latest book is definitely for you. A practical decorating guide that covers everything from how to plan your space right through to those all important finishing touches, this book is packed with designer know-how and easy DIY projects.

Addressing all the fundamental elements of home design, including planning, colour, light and texture, you are encouraged to not only stamp your individuality on your home but also try your hand at painting, wallpapering, putting up shelves or even making Perspex shutters. And if all that sound a bit daunting then, be reassured, there are comprehensive step-by-step instructions, useful tips and a handy reference section on basic tools and techniques. Making it the perfect guide for even the most novice decorator.

Books Do Furnish A Room

BY LESLIE GEDDES-BROWN
Published by Merrell
Available 5 October 2009
Price £24.95
www.merrellpublishers.com

Books are brilliant for reading, but they also make great decoration and it's *Books Do Furnish A Room*'s intention to show you exactly how to do this to your home's best ability: from displaying them in alluring piles or artistic rows, to stacked on desks or left artfully bedside.

This inspiring hardback offers advice on every aspect of living and even working with books, giving clever storage solutions and tips on how best to display your treasured titles. Beautiful illustrations will inspire you to expand your book collection to library status and make the most of your tomes, be it in a study, living room, home office or bedroom.

Books Do Furnish A Room not only provides expert tips and advice but also includes a directory of book specialists, bookbinders, suppliers plus furniture designers and architects.

READER OFFER

Concept For Living readers can get *Books Do Furnish A Room* for the special price of £22.95 (incl. p&p, usual rrp £24.95). Just call Marston Book Services on 01235 465 500 and quote reference MPMERBCL.

Offer available until 31 December 2009

Detail in Contemporary Kitchen Design

BY VIRGINIA MCLEOD
Published by Laurence King Publishing Ltd. Available now
Price £25
www.laurenceking.com

Taking inspiration from kitchens around the globe, *Detail in Contemporary Kitchen Design* illustrates that the modern kitchen is truly the heart of today's home and covers both the modest and more extravagant.

Although not intended as a practical manual, this stylishly photographed book does provide an invaluable insight into the many beautiful and functional kitchens created by architects and designers, and includes useful case studies, plans and images to help further the reader's understanding of how great kitchens are conceived, designed and built.

In addition to the case studies, the book is divided into three distinct sections covering contemporary construction materials – stone, timber and steel – and illustrates how the kitchen, and in particular the modern kitchen-diner, is now regarded as the perfect place for personal expression. So whether you're looking for a no-expenses spared masterpiece or a stunningly simple design, this book could be exactly what you've been waiting for.

WIN! A TOM DIXON LIGHT

Fancy adding an amazing piece of modern British design to your home? Thanks to Nest.co.uk you could win a fantastic Tom Dixon table lamp!

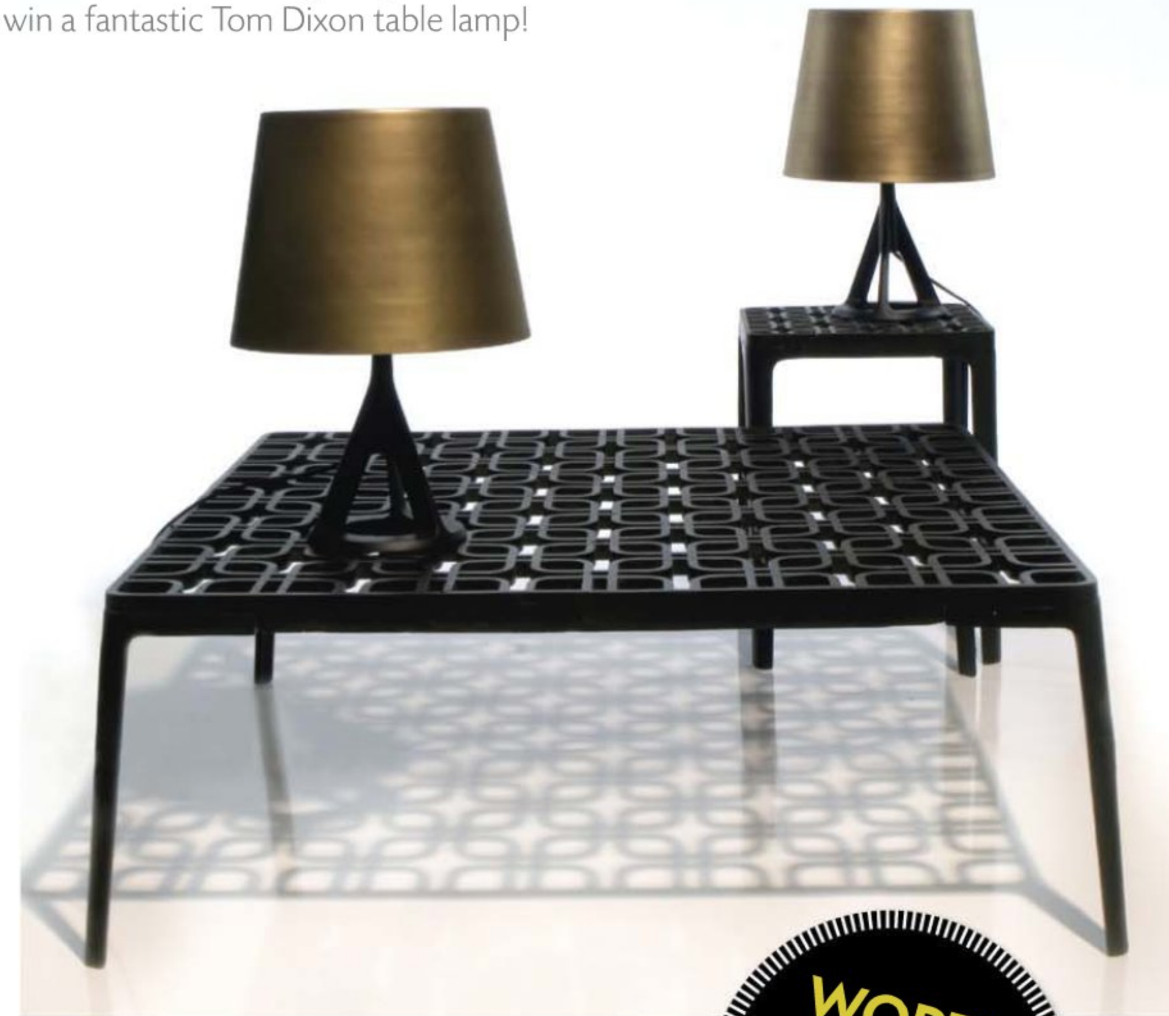
If your home could do with a new key design product for autumn/winter 2009, look no further than Nest.co.uk. The website was started in 2002 with the intention of helping you fill your home with all the best pieces of modern European design. The Nest.co.uk furniture range includes sofas to tables, chairs to lighting, and gifts to accessories by designers and brands from all over Europe, with the aim of bringing you the top trends in interior design and helping you build your very own nest.

The idea for Nest.co.uk began in 2001, when its founder Christian Hawley identified a gap in the market for contemporary furniture and lighting. "I didn't think, even in my wildest dreams, that Nest.co.uk would grow into what it has become today," says Christian. "We really do have a fantastic team and our loyal customers have all helped to make this happen."

When you shop online you can also collect Nest points. For every £1 you spend at Nest.co.uk you will be entitled to one Nest point. Each point is redeemable on any future order at a value of £0.01 per Nest point.

Nest.co.uk are authorised stockists for: Alessi, BestLite, Cassina, Driade, Established & Sons, Flos, Foscarini, Kartell, Magis, Moooi, Nani Marquina, Santa & Cole, Tacchini, Tom Dixon, Vitra and many, many more.

And the best bit is, to celebrate its success Nest.co.uk are offering *Concept For Living* readers the chance to win a Tom Dixon Base Table Light in brushed metal.



WORTH £250!

THE PRIZE

We've teamed up with Nest.co.uk to offer one reader the chance to win a Tom Dixon Base Table Light in brushed metal, worth £264.89.

HOW TO ENTER

It couldn't be easier. Just answer the following question:

When did Christian Hawley first have the idea to begin Nest.co.uk?

A 1999 **B** 2001 **C** 2003

Email your answer to competitions@conceptforliving.co.uk with 'Nest.co.uk' in the subject box and state you name, address, email address and daytime telephone number. Or, post your entry to: Nest.co.uk Competition, *Concept For Living*, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester, CH4 9AJ.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Full terms and conditions apply. The prize is subject to availability, non transferable and there is no cash alternative. Closing date for all entries is midnight 15 September 2009.

LUXURY MOLTON BROWN PRODUCTS TO WIN!

WORTH £200!

We've teamed up with Molton Brown to give one lucky reader the chance to indulge their bathroom *and* body with the latest 'Body Therapies' range.

Stressed, restless and over-tired, run-down or over-worked? Discover an answer to the physical strains of travel, work, family and generally hectic aspects of life, with Molton Brown 'Body Therapies'.

New for 2009, 'Body Therapies' is the ultimate range of unwinding and uplifting remedies to treat the entire body. This highly effective, results-driven range has been created especially to counteract the daily grind and the effects on skin, body and mind. With four unique ranges of products all containing newly discovered and fully active ingredients sourced from exotic, far-flung destinations around the globe, create your own bespoke rescue-range to combat life's stresses and strains head-on.

The range consists of four highly targeted categories; Nurture tired skin, or help the body Unwind after a long day; Purify with the help of antioxidants; drift away into quiet Sleep. Whatever problem-solving your complex life demands, Molton Brown delivers you the benefits in one unique package.

Molton Brown products are made in England but inspired from around the globe. The Molton Brown story began in 1973, when the South Molton Street emporium first opened its doors in London's Mayfair. Two decades later and their creations can now be experienced in more than 70 countries worldwide, in their own emporia and through their partnerships with the world's finest retailers.

Molton Brown body therapies is available at all UK emporia and at www.moltonbrown.co.uk

MOLTON BROWN
LONDON



HOW TO ENTER

To enter for your chance to experience the luxury of Molton Brown and win up to £200-worth of 'Body Therapies' products simply answer the following question:

When did Molton Brown open their first store?

A 1971 **B** 1972 **C** 1973

Email your answer to: competitions@conceptforliving.co.uk. Type 'Molton Brown Competition' in the subject box and state your name, address and daytime telephone number. Or, post your entry to: Molton Brown Competition, *Concept For Living*, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester, CH4 9AJ. Closing date for all entries is midnight 15 September 2009.











BACKSTAGE AT

MONTGOMERY INTERIOR FABRICS

In this exciting new feature, we take a behind-the-scenes look at the design and production of the furniture and products we buy for our homes. If you've ever wondered who dreams up new fabric patterns or how your favourite chair was designed to be *so* comfy, your questions are about to be answered. Over the coming months, we'll be visiting factories and studios across the North and revealing their factory secrets...

This month, we visited the Montgomery Interior Fabrics factory in Chester to find out how made-to-measure curtains are produced.

Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**







CURTAINS UP...







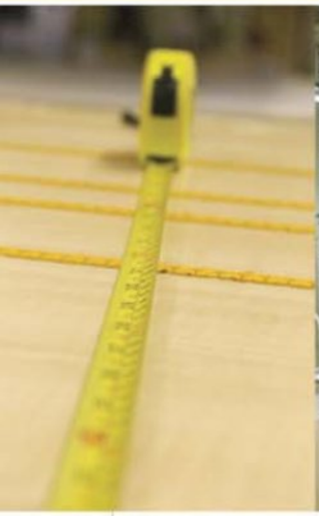


1 FLASHES OF INSPIRATION

To start the design process for a new collection, design director Joanne Mcewan and design co-ordinator Katherine Reid leave their studio behind in search of inspiration. "We read the magazines, go on trips to London and visit exhibitions," said Joanne. "It fuels us for the next season. On one recent trip we went to all the really arty shops in London and came back inspired – you really get a feel for the mood."

2 BUYING AND BRIEFING

Joanne and Katherine are no strangers to multitasking; from marketing to the quality of the fabric, everything visual is their responsibility. Problem is, all this work leaves them with no time left for designing. "We don't sit down and draw anymore because there's just the two of us – we'd have to create one design a week," said Joanne. "What we do now is give a brief of what we're after and commission designers or buy artwork."







5 INTO THE FACTORY

Once the new season's designs have been selected, the fabrics are produced in factories and mills. "The prints are made in British factories, but most of the mills in the UK have shut down so the weaves are made all over the world," said Joanne. The fabrics are then shipped to the Montgomery factory in Chester, ready to be transformed into luxury made-to-measure curtains.

6 LASER PRECISION

The first stage of making curtains is cutting the fabric to the right size. The traditional way of cutting fabric on a horizontal table is a rare sight in the Montgomery factory. Eight hi-tech, vertical cutting machines are now used, with computerised measuring and red lasers replacing measuring tape and scissors. "The operator just keys in what length they want to cut, presses the foot pedal and the machine automatically feeds through the correct length," explained David Sutcliffe, manufacturing manager at Montgomery. "We designed and built these machines ourselves. And everybody thinks textiles is in the backwoods!"





3 COLOURING IN

Once the patterns and designs have been chosen, it's time to experiment with colours in the screen-printing room. "Very few people have the talent for this; it's an absolute skill so we get in a freelance colourist," said Joanne. "It's experimental; we try different cloths and different weird colour palettes on mini-prints. We might make 50 prints and only pick four." Katherine continued: "The mini-prints can start off completely out of balance, with the colours not gelling at all. But three or four goes later we arrive at something much more complete."

4 THE DIGITAL AGE

In contrast to the complex screen-printing technique of yesteryear, all designs are now computerised. "Before computers came in, everything was done by hand," said Joanne. "For screen prints, a separation artist would take a piece of film and pick out all the orange bits of a design, and continue picking out colours until each film represented a colour or a tone. Those films were then laid on the screen and the dyes would come through. However, this process has disappeared because it now goes from artwork onto a computer."







7 HANGING AROUND

Gone are the days of pushing and pulling fabric across the factory floor; a shiny new piece of equipment allows the curtains-to-be to dangle above factory workers' heads. Comparable to a complex train set, the overhead tracking system means that fabric is suspended throughout the production process. "The system is specifically designed at certain heights so that we can pull fabric without having to take it off," said David. One of the main advantages of this is that the factory workers needn't handle any extra weight. "The system takes 70 per cent of the weight off the operator, so it's better for them."

8 SEWING IT UP

All the curtains need headers: pinch pleats; pencil pleats or eyelets. This involves yet more hi-tech equipment. "The pinch pleats machine is our claim to fame," said David. The traditional way of making pinch pleat curtains involves a lengthy process of clamping the fabric, securing the pleats with a staple gun, then sewing the pleats on a standard sewing machine. The new pleats machine does all of this at once. "On the traditional machine, a good operator could do perhaps two or three pairs a day. On the new machines, we can do anything between 15 and 20 pairs a day," said David.

»»»

CURTAIN CALL!






9 MULTITASKING

The majority of workers in the Montgomery factory can do at least two different jobs. "Workers are paid on the basis of how many jobs they can do and the complexity of the jobs," said David. "Over the last few years the whole industry has got quieter; a consequence of this is that we've shed some jobs in that time. We used to have about 180 people in here, whereas now we have about 125. It just means that the people who are left have to be flexible and move around more."

10 QUALITY CONTROL

The curtains are checked for quality at every stage of the production process, as David explained: "A very important thing here is that at no matter what stage, if the workers find a fault, the curtains go back. We want them to be spot on at the end of the line." When all the measuring, cutting and sewing is finished, the curtains are checked one last time to make sure they meet Montgomery's near-perfect standards. If a fault is found in the curtains, it's marked with an ultra violet pen and fixed within three hours, before the pen fades.

11 THE STATS

- Montgomery produces an average of 700 pairs of curtains per week. During busy times of the year such as the run up to Christmas, factory workers can be making up to 1,000 pairs every week.
- The company employs 900 people across the UK; most of these work in retail outlets.
- A whopping 170,000 samples were sent out from the Montgomery factory last year.
- Montgomery currently has between 300 and 400 fabric designs. Taking the different colour options into consideration, this totals to about 1,800 different fabric options.
- Montgomery's rate of customer returns is less than one per cent. "We've put a lot of time into the quality side of things, and it's reflected in our rate of return," said David.




12 THE END PRODUCT

The finished curtains then go to a collation area, where they wait until all the co-ordinating accessories in the same order are ready (the factory also produces everything from valences, tie-backs and roman blinds to solid pelmets, cushions and swags and tails). The products are then packaged into bundles, ready to be sent to their happy new owners.

ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

Compiled by Bryn Griffiths

LATEST IDEAS

Making your home eco-friendly gets easier every month. This issue we bring you the latest eco home designs, from bathroom taps to kitchen utensils no room is out of bounds.











BOOTLINING BAGS

For-keeps.co.uk gets our 'creative innovation' award of the month for bringing out their multi-purpose 'Duffle Sheet'. The bag is not only eco-friendly but acts as a car boot liner – brilliant for when you're moving your recycling, as a groundsheet for late summer picnics in the park, or pull all four corners together to create a chic shopper. Priced £18.

Tel. 0844 477 6291 or visit: www.for-keeps.co.uk for more information.

BIO-ETHANOL FIRES

It's time to start thinking about how you're going to keep your home toasty and warm but in a chic and eco-friendly way this autumn and winter and the new fires from Bioethanol Fires are just the ticket. Hugely popular in France, Germany and Italy and now reaching British shores the extensive range of fires are carbon neutral and have the advantage of not needing a flue or chimney. Pictured is the freestanding 'Arcade' fire, priced £2,799.

For more information visit: www.bioethanolfires.co.uk or tel. 0161 929 1870.

ECO-LUXE FURNITURE

4 Living have unveiled their new 'Boutique' Bamboo range and 'Eco Luxury Living' label. Resulting from a collaboration with British designer Jo-Anne Wright 'Boutique' is an elegant range of bedroom and occasional furniture made from sustainable bamboo. The collection is also the first range of designs to launch under 4 Living's new 'Eco Luxury Furniture' label. Pictured is the dressing table, £375 and mirror, £159.

To see more of the range visit: www.4living.co.uk or call 0800 756 5199.

SMART TAPS

Cifial have just launched their new tap range. The collection includes mono basin, mono bidet and the 'Adele' mono basin mixer and 'Adele' wall-mounted bath/shower mixer. The range is available with the new 'Eco-clic' water-saving cartridge that restricts the flow of water to 50 per cent – which is good news for both you and the environment. Priced from £116.

Tel. 01933 402 008 or visit: www.cifial.co.uk to find out more about the new pieces.

BAMBOO UTENSILS

For kitchen products that are durable, beautiful «and» boast eco credentials look no further than The Pampered Chef. Their range of bamboo spoons and utensils are perfect for an eco-chic cook space. Bamboo is a renewable resource that does not conduct heat or absorb moisture either – what more could you want? Priced from £8 for a set of three.

For further details visit: www.pamperedchef.com or tel. 01344 823 600.


this chic coffee table is so gorgeous that your friends will never suspect it leads a double life! find out more at
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Caravaggio Pendant Light, Lightyears.

Utility
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Visit: www.utilitydesign.co.uk
Tel. 0151 708 4192

MY FAVOURITE THINGS



We took a trip to Liverpool to chat to Dick Mawdsley from contemporary furniture, lighting and home accessories store Utility about his design favourites.

"We opened our first store in Liverpool in November 1999 with an experimental range of products from both independent designers and makers and some larger brands such as Alessi and Kartell," says Dick Mawdsley of the highly successful home store Utility in Liverpool. Utility has since gone from strength to strength, expanding to two stores on Bold Street plus a further gift store in the Victorian Miller Arcade in Preston and online store at www.utilitydesign.co.uk.

««« Future classic

My future classic is the Caravaggio light by Lightyears. It references an older form, but it's brought up-to-date with a gloss finish.





Tom Dixon Copper Chandelier & Block Table.

««« Product designer

Tom Dixon. I like the fact that he's not had any formal design training. He started out by bashing metalwork in a workshop. And his work has got a very British aesthetic to it with the idea of working with metal and different natural materials. There's a very 50s look to some of his products, like the copper lights. It's refreshing that there's somebody in the UK doing what he's doing and being successful at it too.

Design classic »»»

The Eames Elephant stool; Eames designed the pink elephant in 1945 but it was never put into production for general distribution or sale. It was released in 2007 as a limited edition anniversary [for Charles Eames' 100th birthday] version. And then Vitra released a plastic version last year. People like it for lots of different reasons: kids like to play on it, people like the form of it and use it as a design accessory in the house. And even the packaging is great.



Eames Elephants.

Design-related quote or philosophy

We have a Utility theory that houses shouldn't look like they've been "interior designed". We like the idea of a collage, so it's a collection of things over time.

DESIGNER MAKER PROFILE



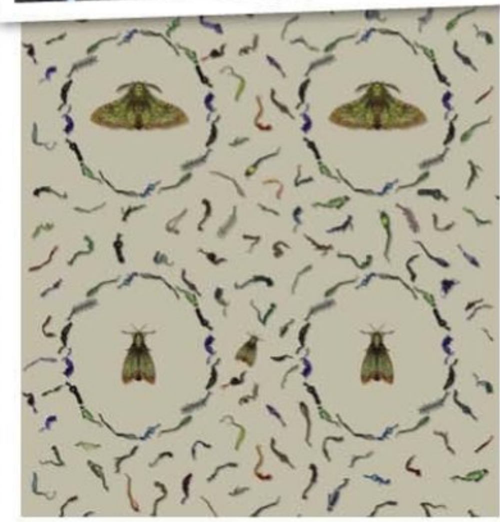
Founded in Glasgow in 1990 **Timorous Beasties** was set up by Alistair McAuley and Paul Simmons who met whilst studying textile design at The Glasgow School Of Art.

Alistair and Paul first set up in an old church which was crumbling under their feet, as the business grew they moved to a bigger space, a large 1930s-style brick building which has lots of natural light and 12 years later they are still going strong. Having shops in both London and Glasgow Alistair and Paul are looking to expand in either Paris or Berlin in the near future. Experimental in their approach to both hand printing and machine production, some of their work includes printing contemporary images on traditional textiles and wallpapers. Their projects range from clients in New York to interiors in a London casino. We sat down to have a chat with Paul.











Q&A

What is your most treasured possession?
My bicycle.

How do you relax?
Watching television.

Where is your favourite destination?
Going to work.

What is your guilty pleasure?
I feel too guilty telling you!

Do you have a motto?
Who dares wins.

Describe yourself in five words?
Tall-ish, dark, big nose, big mouth, all my original teeth.

What inspires you?
Everything and anything.

Who are your design heroes?
Aubrey Beardsley, Konstantin Grcic, Jean-Baptiste Pillement.

What are your current projects?
A Bird in the Hand exhibition at Museums Sheffield's Millennium Gallery, wallpaper for the new Chicago Art Institute, Rugs, Edinburgh Toile, a large building in London (not allowed to say). Our own brand of Whisky.

Can you describe your work?
Eclectic.

What is your favourite piece of work so far?
I like things that don't turn out the way I imagined them, so Euro Damask, for the moment.

Timorous Beasties
Tel. 0141 959 3331
Visit: www.timorousbeasties.com




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STATES OF **AFRICA**

An exhibition in South Yorkshire's very own Barnsley this September will challenge perceptions of the African continent. *Concept For Living* spoke to exhibition curator Kevin Dalton-Johnson, to find out more about the works on display.

Words **Jennie Musgrove**

When you think of Africa, world-class contemporary art isn't usually the first thing that springs to mind. But an exhibition in Barnsley is paving the way for a new vision of the continent. *Africa 53* will show at The Cooper Gallery and The Gallery@The Civic, and aims to dispel the mono-cultural perception of Africa by showcasing the work of internationally-renowned artists from across the vast continent. Curator Kevin Dalton-Johnson wanted the exhibition to give a fair representation of Africa, and steered clear of the tired stereotypes, as he explained: "Africa is a huge continent with many forms of artworks, different languages and different cultures, so to bring the whole continent down to one name isn't representative of the huge place that it is. It's not just tribal masks and drums and voodoo dolls. They are a part of African art, yes, but there's so much more than that."

The artworks on display explore Africa as a continent, illuminating its values, traditions, history and the influences that have shaped it. Kevin's introduction to the exhibition provides a context: "There exists much misunderstanding of African art, it's often bound by colonial ideals and perceptions, and is often presented as 'primitive' and non-progressive, hence the importance of this exhibition. The work of the artists presented show how Africans use their artwork as a platform to re-dress such perceptions."

The exhibition title comes from the 53 states of Africa, which Kevin used to convey the vastness and variety of the continent. "Even before the public enter the exhibition space, their enlightenment starts from the title. Some people will know what the 53 means, but I'm making an assumption that quite a few people won't










"Hopefully through the exhibition, people will see the breadth and vibrancy of contemporary African art, and hopefully they'll view it in a different way"

and if they ask, which I hope they will, then they start to learn before they go in."

The artists exhibiting represent a broad spectrum of visual art including sculpture, paintings, installations and film. "Not only do I want to challenge the viewer through what they see, but I really want them to see a range of work – two-dimensional, three-dimensional, digital, sculptural – so we're getting away from the clay mask on the wall with a bit of straw hanging out of it."

Misheck Masamvu is an artist from Zimbabwe whose work portrays the difficulties faced by his home country. 'Empty Shout' depicts a man using a hollow loaf of bread as a loud speaker; another painting shows Robert Mugabe holding the artist's newborn son. "Misheck always takes the skin colour away because he says he doesn't want to deal with the 'black/white' issue," said Kevin. "He says what's going on is more than race, it's about poverty, it's about injustice and it's about bad things that are happening, so he strips all his figures of colour, down to what's directly underneath the pigment, where we're all the same."

Not all of the works on display deal with political issues, however. "I didn't want to deliberately select works that are political," said Kevin. "Because that's another stereotype. It's taken us a long time, and there's still a fair way to go, to get away from what black art was in the '80s. It tied down a lot of black artists to, 'Well it's got to be angry and it's got to have red, yellow and green on it. And it's got to be really political.' Which sends out a message that a black artist wouldn't feel the compulsion to paint a beautiful day like today, or a still life.

"Some of the themes that the artists I've selected have chosen to work with are political, but they weren't chosen because they are; it just so happens that it's what the artist does."

Well-known artist Mansour Ciss Kanakassy is originally from Senegal but now lives in Berlin. His work challenges the perception of what an African person is: a series of photographs show African men with tribal masks painted on their faces. "He's playing on the fact that he's got present-day Africans, but they're in painted tribal masks – he's kind of having a laugh," said Kevin.

More than a thousand miles east of Senegal is Nigeria, the homeland of artist Bright Ugochukwu Eke. He creates beautiful sculptural installations out of recycled glass water bottles, which highlight the importance of water. Kevin explained: "Bright's main focus is not about racism or political unrest, it's about how water is a substance that connects all humanity and without it, no matter what colour you are, you cannot exist." Bright will have a residency at Barnsley Civic alongside the exhibition, during which he will work with the public to create a large-scale installation outside the gallery.

"Hopefully through the exhibition, people will see the breadth and vibrancy of contemporary African art, and hopefully they'll view it in a different way and even view Africa in a different way," said Kevin. "But most importantly I hope they'll enjoy the artworks they see. I've chosen the works not just because it's African artists who've done them, but because I really like them. I think their works are phenomenal."

***Africa 53* is at The Gallery@The Civic and The Cooper Gallery, Barnsley, from 16 September to 4 November 2009. Admission is free. Visit: www.barnsleycivic.co.uk to find out more.**

OPPOSITE PAGE FROM LEFT Bill Kouélany, Blaues. Kevin Dalton-Johnson, Welcome to Kevin's World. Misheck Masamvu, Sweat and Bad Breath. **ABOVE FROM LEFT** Pélagie Gbaguidi. Sithabile Mlotshwa.



MEET THE **CURATOR**

Kevin Dalton-Johnson is a Manchester-based artist and teacher, currently lecturing at Manchester Prison and hoping to begin studying for a PhD this year. Although he was born and grew up in London, his ancestry is in Jamaica. Kevin's artwork explores sexuality and black identity, with particular reference to life in the UK. "I don't know if you would call my work political. It's me expressing how I feel as a black man in England, which is often ostrocised," he said.

Last year Kevin took part in IFAA, an artists' residency in Holland, working alongside predominantly African and Dutch artists to explore the theme of 'Art, Migration and Identity'. This residency provided the inspiration for *Africa 53*, and many of the artists exhibiting are those who were also on the residency.

Kevin is displaying his own work as part of the exhibition; something he was initially reluctant to do. "The artists exhibiting are all Dak'Art Biennale winners, they're in another league. That made me a bit scared of showing with them. But the good thing about working with them on the residency was that they empowered me to continue my work. They felt that what I had to say was just as important as somebody from Africa."

During the exhibition, Kevin will be chairing informal discussions between the public and the exhibiting artists.



Photography Eleri Griffiths

AN ARCHITECT'S VIEW: GOTHIC MASTERPIECE

Whitby Abbey headland and visitor centre offers architecture as dramatic as its surrounding geographical landscape, so *CFL* architect Kevin Drayton headed there to give us an expert tour.

BELOW Inside Whitby Abbey Visitor Centre architect's Stanton Williams have fully utilised Cholmley House's long, open shape, maximising on space and light. **BELOW RIGHT** The Abbey ruins make for an imposing sight on the headland. **OPPOSITE, MAIN** Cholmley House has been restored to house the visitor centre. The windows demonstrate a sensitive design decision to add glass panes without detracting from the building's original style. **FAR RIGHT** Subtle hints of gothic architecture.

As you approach Whitby, particularly if it is from across the Moors, the first sight of the ruined Abbey silhouetted against the sky is undoubtedly dramatic and may raise a few hairs on the back of your neck. What is it that gives certain places an ability to evoke strong reactions? Is it something about the headland overlooking the town that inspired the establishment of the monastery and the subsequent events that took place there, or is it the centuries of dramatic events themselves that have given the place its particular aura?

Whichever it is, sensitivity to the peculiar atmosphere and qualities of a place is a valuable asset for an architect. I often bemoan the tendency to ignore local talent when it comes to selecting practices for prestigious public projects in the provinces, but I applaud the choice of London-based practice Stanton Williams to handle the masterplanning of the famous headland above Whitby.

Not unreasonably, most people in Britain would be hard pressed to name half a dozen living architects. But at a time when certain celebrity architects have achieved their notoriety by designing buildings that appear wilfully bizarre, the practice established by Alan Stanton and Paul Williams does proper architecture. They concern themselves with space, light, materials and movement. They believe that an understanding of and response to context and heritage are fundamental to good design. Rather than merely trying to dream up ever-weirder shapes, they concern themselves with making better places and making places better. But they do it with a level of skill many of us can only dream of. Outside the architectural community they inevitably remain largely unknown.

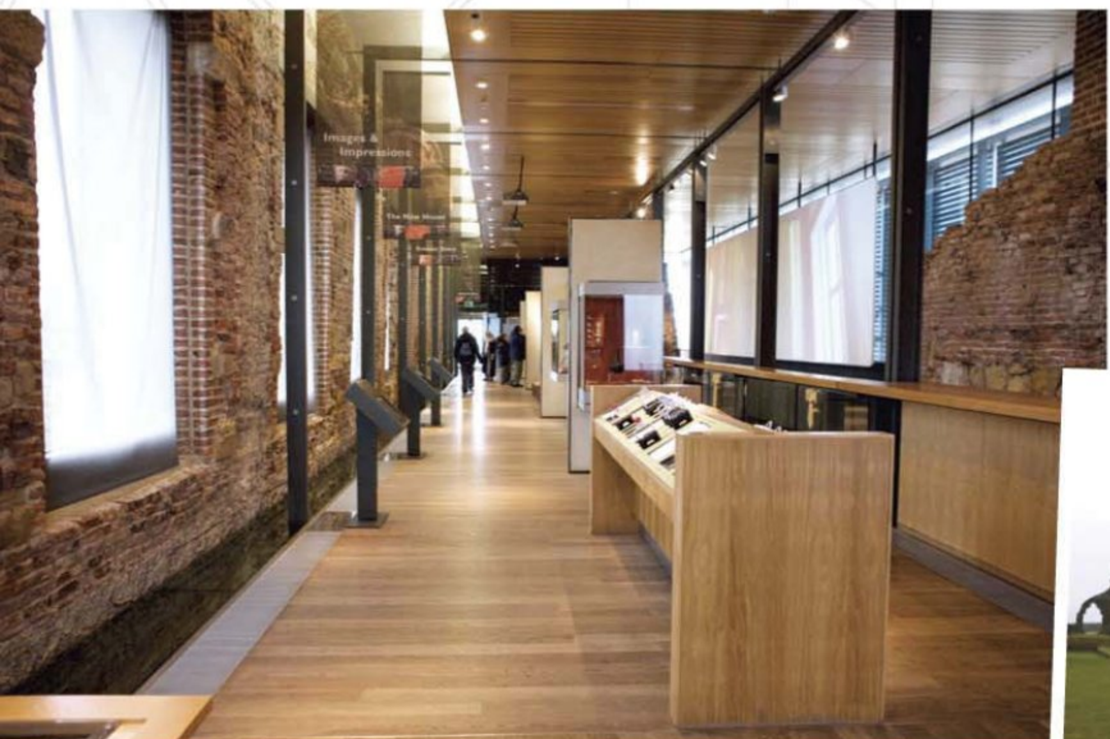
Stanton Williams has a large and impressive body of work to its name. Unfortunately not much appears in the north of England, so Whitby Abbey headland and the visitor centre which the practice completed in 2002 provides a good opportunity for us to see what they can do.

I recommend approaching the Abbey complex from the car park – not least because to do so from the town means climbing nearly 200 stairs. But it also allows an appreciation of the care the architect has given to maximising the impact of the site on visitors. The ticket office is set at the base of a long wall that supports the edge of a grassed plateau. You rise up from the office and emerge onto the plateau and a panorama opens up before you. The Abbey ruins stand gaunt and silent in the distance, grabbing the eye. Then as you look further left you see a group of buildings, the function of which is not immediately evident. The air of mystery that surrounds the Abbey is deliberately perpetuated.

Mown paths lead you either into the Abbey ruins or to an austerely detailed ramp-cum-bridge which ends at a deliberately low-key doorway. This doorway is in the upper part of the gable of a building in its own way just as enigmatic as the Abbey itself. It is the one time banqueting house of the Cholmley family and it is into the ruined shell of this building that Stanton Williams has inserted the visitor centre.

Over the centuries, Whitby Abbey has

"Rather than merely trying to dream up ever-weirder shapes, Stanton Williams architects concern themselves with making better places and making places better"







"The Abbey ruins stand gaunt and silent in the distance, grabbing the eye... The air of mystery that surrounds the Abbey is deliberately perpetuated"



seen amazing events, having been sacked by the Vikings, suffered the predations of Henry VIII and, more recently, the attention of enemy fire during the Second World War.

Not to be outdone, Cholmley House, which dates from around 1630, lost its roof in a terrible storm and stood deserted for many years. And yet it too has a strong presence. The decision was taken to cloak the new visitor centre in this slightly macabre shell and it has been done with elegance, restraint and clarity of purpose. Every element of the building has been thoroughly considered and rigorously detailed. Even the benches on which weary visitors can sit and contemplate the events of history are beautifully crafted.

If you visit, enter at the upper level and marvel at the space, pass down to the ground floor and then out through the old front door of the building. Revelation again. Walk across the courtyard in which you find yourself, turn and look at the façade that faces you. What do you see? A historic building, or a new building staring back at you through the mask of time?

Despite having undergone major work, the sense of history at the Abbey headland remains palpable. Chapter 6 of Bram Stoker's masterpiece *Dracula* opens with a description of Whitby, which I have edited slightly:

"This is a lovely place... Right over the town is the ruin of Whitby Abbey, which was sacked by the Danes, and which is the scene of part of 'Marmion', where the girl was built up in the wall. It is a most noble ruin, of immense size, and full of beautiful and romantic bits. There is a legend that a white lady is seen in one of the windows."

Yes it is lovely, but it is also so obviously the setting for dark and turbulent events. To have designed a visitor centre and other improvements that bring renewed life to the location without completely draining the lifeblood from the old is a significant achievement. Does that remind you of anything?

Kevin is partner at One17 Design. Visit: www.one17design.com to find out more about his work.

If you're interested in visiting Whitby Abbey and its visitor centre for yourself go to www.whitbyabbey.co.uk for more information. Open daily 10am-5pm, closed 24-26 December and 1 January.

PROPERTY NEWS

This month's Property News is all about beautiful vistas. Whether from the glazing of a new house in the Lakes or the balcony of an Alpine apartment in Southern France, there's nothing better than a room with a view. Here are some of our favourite new homes.





MODERN LAKELAND LIVING

A contemporary new house in Windermere features extensive glazing and an exceptionally high specification.

A striking new home in the Lake District National Park is on the market for £2.25m and offers almost 5000sq ft of living space and a large garden with stunning views. Modern in style but built with traditional materials, Sunnyhill is ideally situated in an elevated position in Windermere.

The five-bedroom, four-bathroom property has an open-plan layout and has been designed around a full-height atrium. The high-specification kitchen (featuring Miele appliances and Corian© worktops) and spacious lounge both have sliding doors leading onto the terrace. Also on the ground floor is a cloakroom, utility room and integrated double garage, all of which are hidden from the entrance hall by a sliding glass screen.

A cantilevered oak staircase leads from the atrium to a mezzanine floor partly suspended from the roof. The first floor comprises five bedrooms, four luxury bathrooms (complete with Duravit sanitaryware and Hansgrohe taps and shower fittings) and a laundry room. Most dramatic is the master bedroom suite which has a full-height glass gable wall and balcony overlooking a woodland glade, along with an en-suite bathroom, dressing room and private 'den'.

The property's garden is almost two acres and incorporates a woodland glade with a gentle stream running to a pond. A large terrace wraps around two sides of the house, ideal for enjoying the view of the garden and surrounding countryside, with distant glimpses of the lake and fells beyond.

Sunnyhill is priced at £2.25m. Viewing is by appointment only; call 01539 448 866 or visit: www.robert-hughes-limited.com.



OFF-PLAN ALPINE HOMES

Half the properties at a development in Southern France have already been sold prior to launch in December.

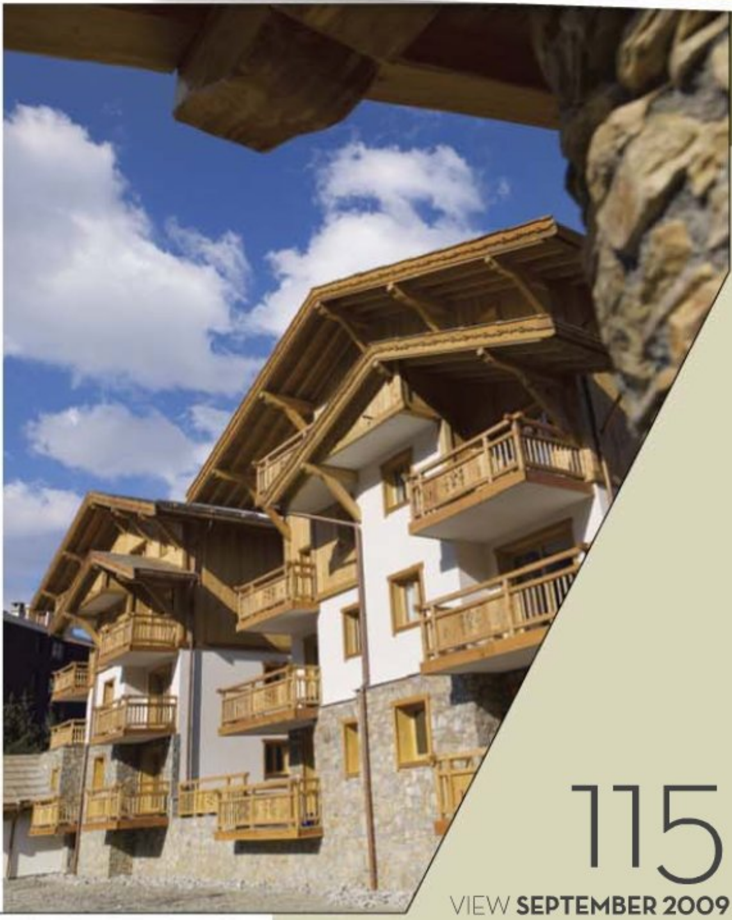
Almost half of the 27 apartments in a new residence de tourisme in the Southern Alps region of France have already been sold ahead of its opening in December this year. The two linked chalets are situated in Chantemerle 1350, one of the six villages which make up the Serre Chevalier ski resort just north of Switzerland, and are close to the ski slopes, shops and restaurants. Many of the apartments have panoramic views of the mountains and slopes.

"The level of off-plan sales underlines the continuing attraction of this region, not only for summer walkers and winter skiers but also Britons who have been coming here in search of respite from asthma and respiratory problems for 70 years," said Richard Deans, London-based sales consultant with the French developer MGM, which is building and selling apartments in the residence, named L'Orée des Neiges. "Easy access to the region's healthy climate and hot mineral-rich springs, as well as some of Europe's best ski slopes and the Mediterranean coast – a three-hour drive away – are some of the reasons why its popularity with year-round holiday home buyers is growing."

All of the new leaseback homes are fully furnished and decorated, and feature pine internal finishes with tiled and parquet floors. Each property comes with a cellar storage, ski locker and underground parking.

MGM is the biggest developer of residential properties in ski resorts across the Northern Alps, which it has been building for 45 years. At L'Orée des Neiges, MGM has transferred its experience to the Southern Alps. "A major factor attracting investors is the way in which property prices in locations like Serre Chevalier are only three quarters of those for comparable properties in the Northern Alps," said Richard. Prices of apartments at the development start at €180,600 for a one-bedroom apartment, rising to €430,600 for a three-bedroom duplex. These prices exclude VAT at 19.6 per cent, which is waived under the leaseback scheme.

Visit: www.mgm-constructeur.com, email: rd@mgm-immobilier.fr or call 0207 494 0706 to find out more.



RENOVATED LINCOLNSHIRE LODGE

A historical property near Scunthorpe comes with an additional cottage which is ideal for a holiday let.



A beautifully renovated lodge in Lincolnshire, which was once a Gatehouse to the historic Burton Hall, is on the market for £550,000. Dunster Lodge occupies an idyllic location in the prestigious village of Burton and has an additional one- or two-bedroom cottage in its four-acre grounds. Also within the grounds are extensive gardens, a paddock, double garage and two stables.

The lodge was originally home to Burton Hall's gamekeeper, and the attached cottage was used to house the estate's gundogs. The field between Dunster Lodge and Burton Hall was once used as the village cricket pitch; Burton Cricket Club played on the ground for 120 years until 1970 when it disbanded through lack of players.

"The idyllic location of Dunster Lodge, its long and prominent history, substantial grounds and business potential make it an interesting prospect," said Ben Wilkinson of Beck Homes. "It really does present an ideal opportunity to own a stunning property in a conservation area, and the desirable village of Burton."

Internally, the property has been fitted with a high specification and in keeping with its history. The lounge has a feature fireplace with stone hearth, incorporating a solid fuel stove. The large kitchen comes complete with an AGA cooker and extractor, a range of 'farmhouse style' eye-level units with granite work surfaces and matching base units and drawers.



The first floor comprises the first bedroom and a separate bathroom. A further flight of stairs leads to a raised landing/study area, from which the master bedroom and second bedroom can be reached.

For more details or to arrange a viewing, contact Beck Homes. Email: info@beckhomes.co.uk or call 0844 335 0824.





SEASIDE DESIGN

A new collection of holiday homes in Anglesey features cutting-edge architecture and fantastic sea views.

Homebuilder Russell Homes has received planning permission for three contemporary townhouses to sit alongside its nine apartments overlooking Rhosneigr Bay in Anglesey. Each four-bedroom property will feature a unique glazed gallery and balcony with beautiful views across the bay.

The bedrooms and bathrooms are arranged on the ground and first floors, with the master bedroom opening out to an extensive decked terrace at first-floor level. The living areas are located on the upper floors, with the lounge and gallery offering extensive glazing to make the most of the views. Each house will have a garage and external parking space within a private inner courtyard.

"There is simply nothing like this in Rhosneigr and the stunning location is matched only by the unique architecture," said Andrew Russell, managing director at Russell Homes. "The Waterfront is situated in a fantastic position on the beach, with access via a private road and slipway, offering buyers a great investment for the future. The design of The Waterfont is a contemporary interpretation of the typical architecture of the local area. Windows on Station Road and side elevations echo the characteristic form of houses in the village. However, it is on the beach side that The Waterfront truly comes into its own with large glazed panels flooding the living areas with light and framing the incredible views."

The homes are aimed at the second home market, with modern architecture and chic interior finishes expected to draw interest from those looking to purchase in the popular holiday hotspot.

Prices at The Waterfront start from £399,950. For further information, call Russell Homes on 0161 868 4310 or visit: www.russellhomes.co.uk.





MANCHESTER PROPERTY FOCUS

This month we've been seeking out the best new property stories in Manchester, and have uncovered family homes in Bolton, apartments in Whalley Range and Salford Quays and a bespoke service for those with a little more to spend...





BESPOKE HOME SOLUTIONS

A Cheshire developer is offering a bespoke solution for those looking to spend millions on a new home.

Wealthy homebuyers in Cheshire and Greater Manchester needn't buy 'off the peg' properties anymore thanks to a new 'couture' service, called Fingerprint, being offered by award-winning property developer Huntsmere.

Fingerprint allows homebuyers to create a home to their exact requirements and specification under the guidance of Huntsmere director, Chris Oakes. "We have found that beyond a certain price, let's say £3m, there is very little property available, and what is out there is unlikely to meet the requirements of a buyer," said Chris. "The solution is to provide a service from sourcing a plot, managing its acquisition and planning, through to handling all aspects of the construction, right through to finishes and furnishings."

Fingerprint clients not only meet with the developer on a regular basis to fine tune their requirements but also have access to a 'client only' area on the Fingerprint website where they can access a microsite for their own property. Via this microsite, clients can create an interactive 'mood board' for each room in the house from a database of more than 3,000 images and the sophisticated system will also allow them to upload images if they see something they like whilst out and about. Clients can access key information relating to their new home including architect's drawings, CGIs and progress reports. And from webcams positioned onsite they will also be able to view images of their property as construction progresses.

"Nothing like this has ever been done before," said Chris. "Not only are we giving clients thousands of ideas and solutions, the interactive website allows them to show me the sorts of room layouts and designs they like and this will help to drive and steer the creative process."

Huntsmere is currently acquiring plots in the 'golden triangle' of Alderley Edge, Prestbury and Wilmslow for future Fingerprint properties.

Visit: www.fingerprintbyhuntsmere.co.uk or call 01625 599 929 to find out more.

BOLTON SALE ASSISTANCE

New homes in North Manchester are part of an 'assisted sale' scheme by homebuilder Arley.



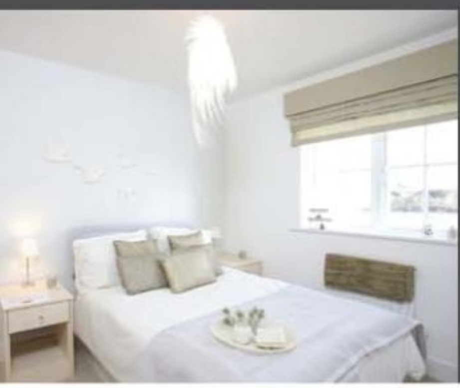


Homebuyers struggling to sell their existing property are being offered a helping hand by Northwest homebuilder, Arley Homes. The Churchfields development in Harwood near Bolton, comprises 17 detached and semi-detached properties arranged around a private cul-de-sac. There are five different house types, with each home offering contemporary interiors and spacious living across three floors.

As an incentive to buy at Churchfields, Arley is offering to assist the sale of the homebuyer's existing property, as well as covering the cost of the Home Information Pack and estate agent's fees.

Managing director of Arley Homes, John Cosgrave, said the aim of the scheme was to help buyers who had become trapped by the effects of the downturn in the housing market. "Buying a house is probably the single biggest purchase most of us will make in our lifetime yet there are no classes to teach people how to go about it successfully," said John. "Arley Homes has vast experience of building, buying and selling homes so it seems natural that we put our expertise to good use in aiding potential purchasers who want to move to one of our homes. Our assisted sale scheme has been designed to remove the hassle, and cover some of the costs, for people who just want to buy a home for their family."

The show home at Churchfields is a detached property which has been beautifully furnished in keeping with the development's modern aesthetic. The contemporary kitchen/dining room features fully-integrated appliances and French windows opening onto a landscaped garden. The top-floor master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom and views across the Lancashire countryside.



Prices at Churchfields start at £199,950. Visit: www.arleyhomes.co.uk or call 01925 651 155 to find out more.





BROADWAY'S A HIT

New apartments in Salford Quays are available to rent or buy at competitive prices.



The latest phase of one- and two-bedroom apartments at Broadway, Salford Quays, is perfect for trendy Manchester media types, being close to Media City and within easy reach of the city centre. The properties are available to rent or buy, with rental deals starting at £495 per month for a one-bedroom apartment.

Developer Prospect (GB) Ltd believes that existing tenants at Salford Quays considering a move will see Broadway as an attractive option. "We know that we are ultra competitive when it comes to rental prices and also that pound for pound our floor areas are larger than most of the other Salford Quays schemes," said Neil Waddington, managing director. "We also provide a dedicated parking space with each apartment at no extra cost with first-class security. We can also offer prospective tenants the ability to convert from rent to 'rent2buy' which means that if they like living at Broadway and they are eligible, they can decide to apply for HomeBuy Direct, the new Government backed shared equity scheme, and ultimately own the home that they have been renting."

Those renting at Broadway can also take advantage of a furniture package which includes a bed, dining table and chairs, seating and storage. All rented apartments will be fully carpeted.

The new show apartment is available to view. Call Bridgford's Manchester City Centre office on 0845 437 6180 or visit: www.broadway.gb.com.

ORBAN LIVING

New apartments in a trendy suburb of Manchester will offer location *and* style.



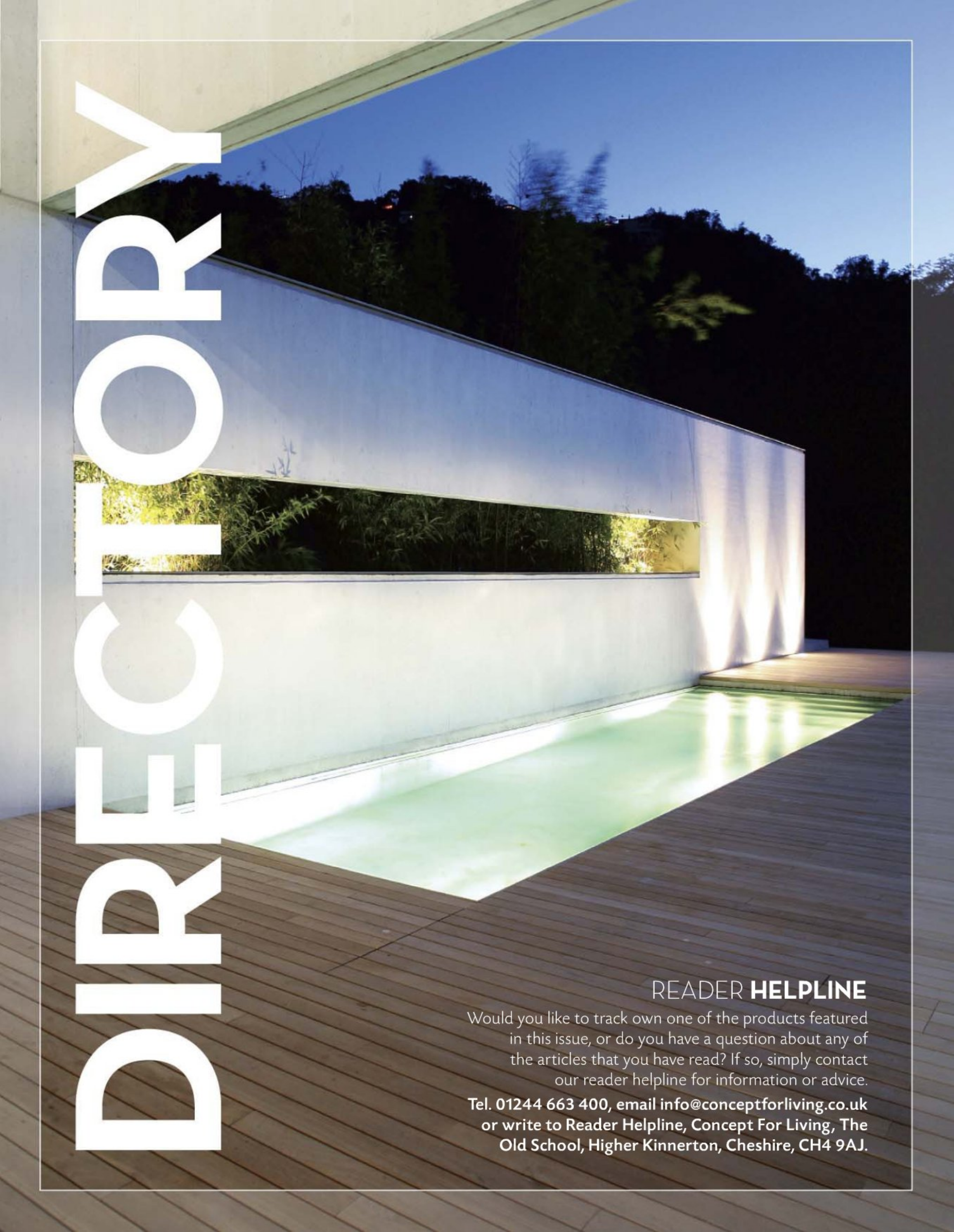
City centre developer Crosby Lend Lease is to launch a chic new apartment building named Orban in Whalley Range, Manchester. A selection of one- and two-bedroom apartments make up the property, all designed to Crosby's reliably high specification.

A traditional frontage ensures the development blends in with the surrounding area, while each living space features light, open-plan interiors with Stuart Frazer kitchens and contemporary bathrooms.

"There is no doubt that Orban is a great place to choose to live or invest in property," said Peter Vella, sales and marketing director for Crosby Lend Lease. "Close to trendy Chorlton and chic Didsbury, this development offers the best of all worlds and is only a couple of miles from Manchester city centre. Chorlton has a great selection of specialist boutique shops and relaxed restaurants, while Didsbury has a well-established café culture lifestyle blended with easy access to Manchester that attracts an aspirational clientele."

Orban is located across the road from Alexandra Park which comprises 60 acres of parkland. The development is just a ten minute walk from Chorlton town centre. When launched, prices at the development will start at £157,000. Visit: www.crosbylendlease.com/orban or call 0121 454 0400 for more information.





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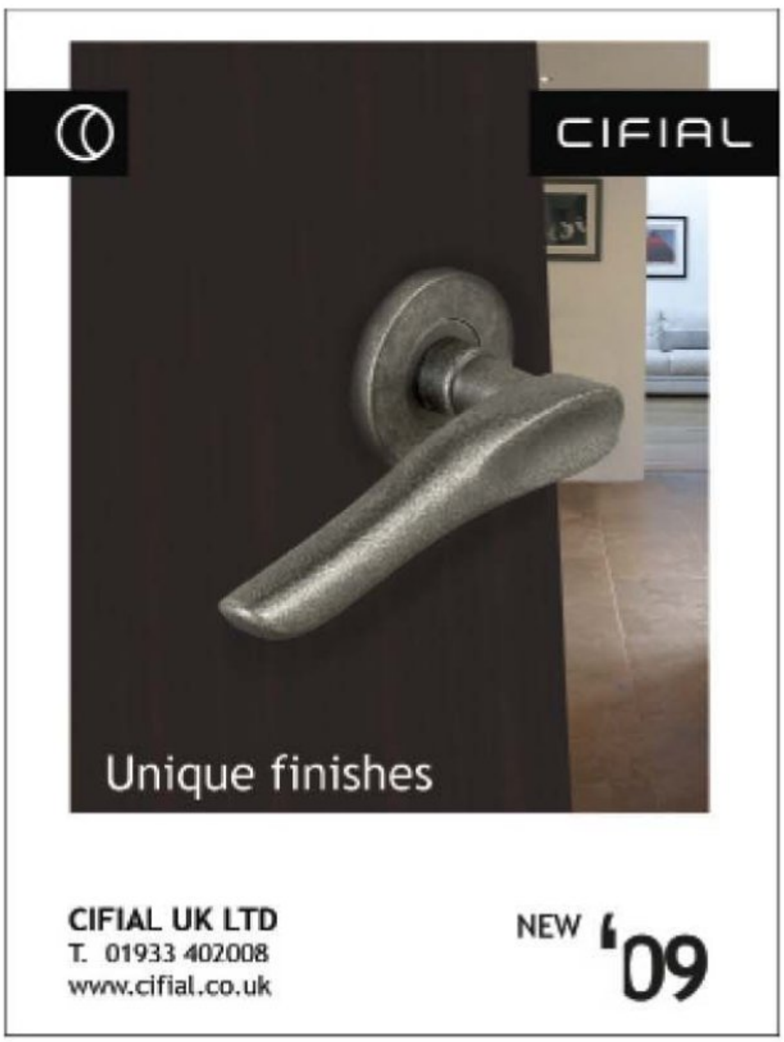

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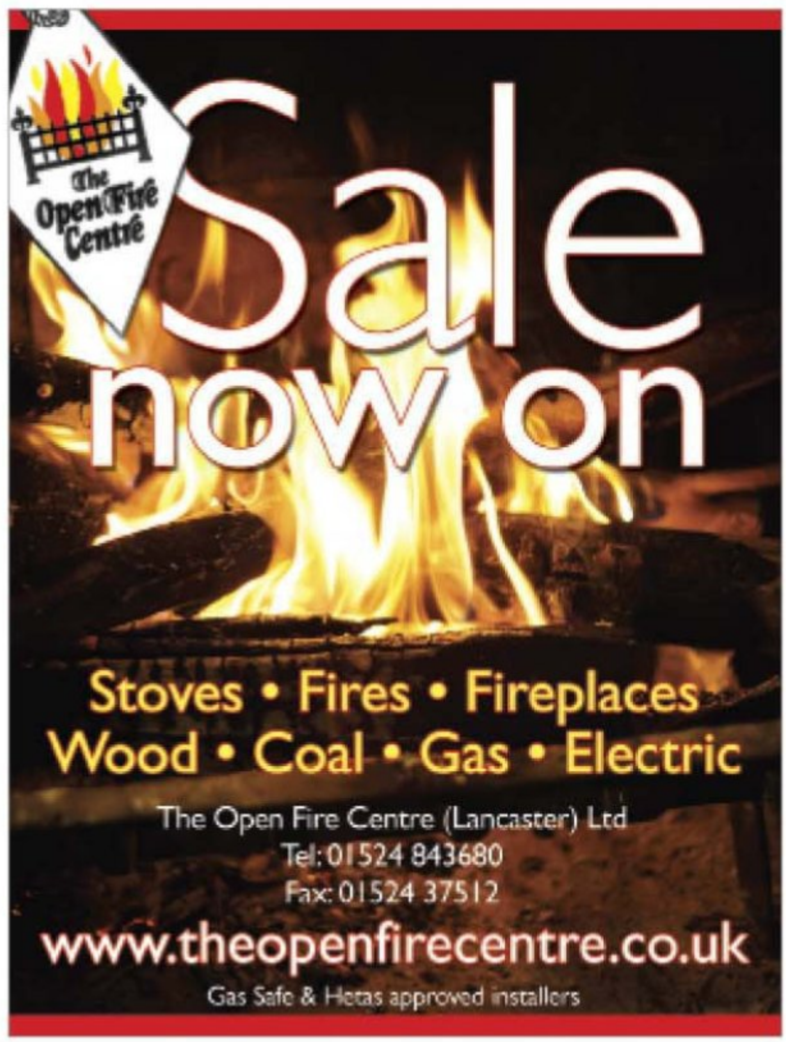

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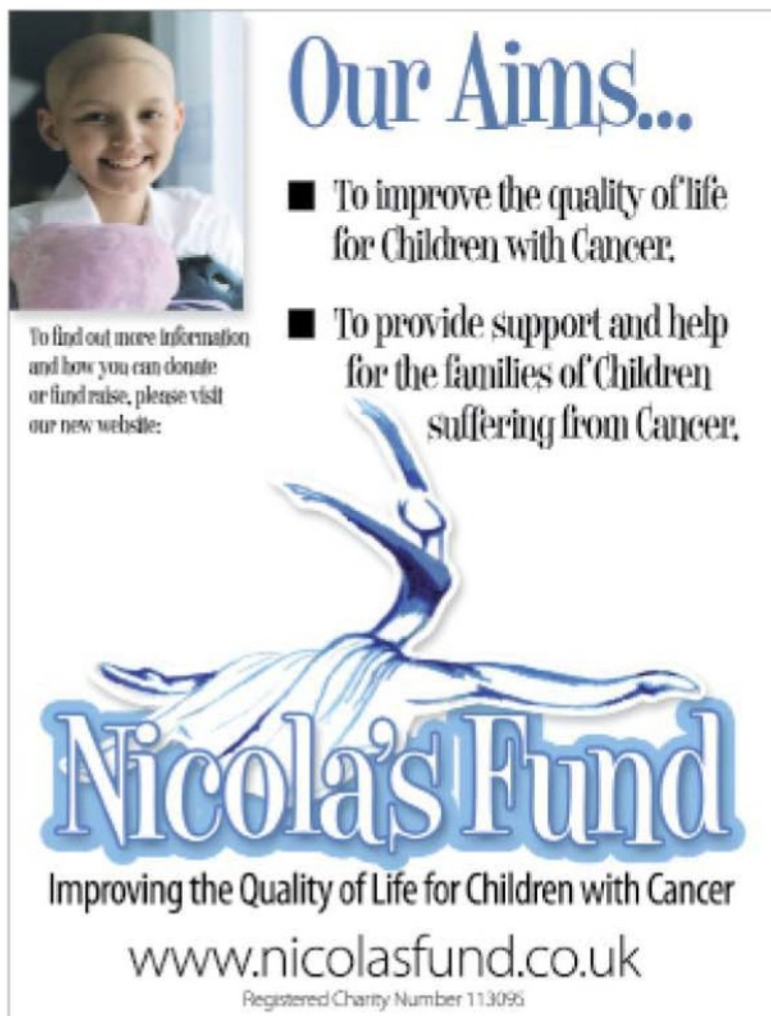

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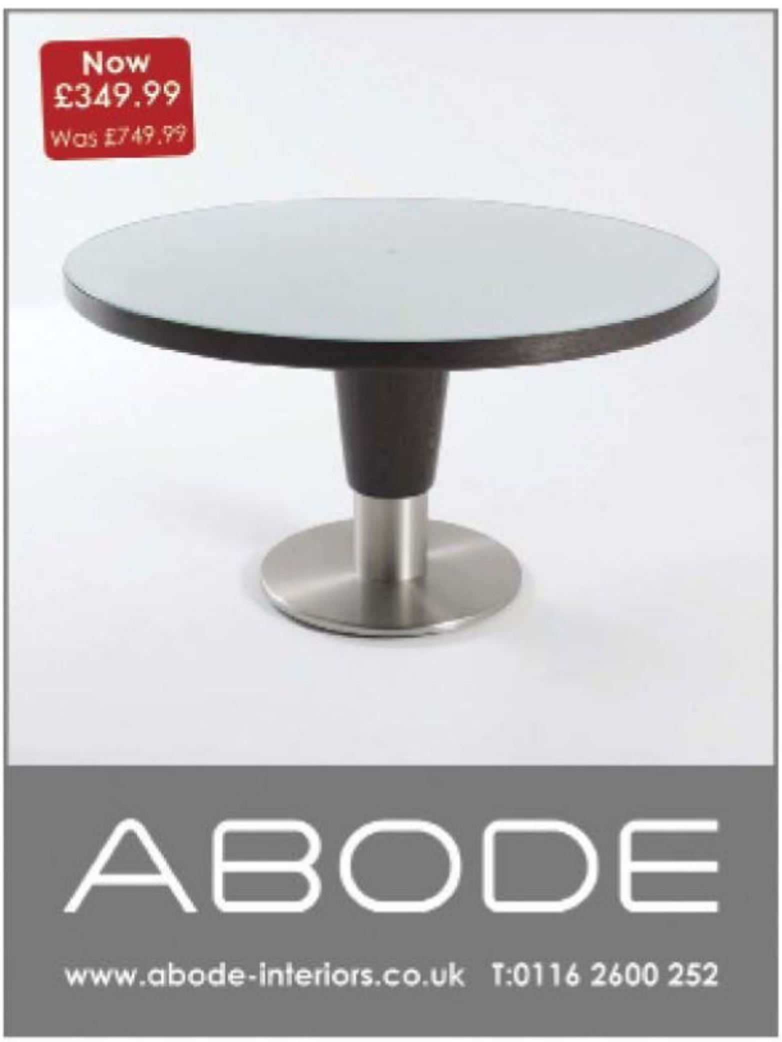
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To: The Manager Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Branch Sort Code

Bank/Building Society account number

Originator's Identification Number

4 1 7 5 2 0

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Signature(s)

Date

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CFL 130

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THIS MONTH WE LOVE...

If you do one thing this September, add a little colour and pattern to your life, with some seriously stripey home buys.









1 With ten striking colourways and ten sizes, you could end up going round in circles when choosing your favourite satin ribbon shade.
Isabel Stanley ribbon striped shade, £82, Not On The High Street.

2 Stripe it lucky with this bold stripe cushion made from 100% silk.
Pure Silk Stripe Cushion, £29.50, Marks & Spencer.

3 Add brilliant bands of colour to your table with gorgeous multi-coloured porcelain tableware.
Pair of Guzzini Millerighe place settings, £50.84, Amaroni.

4 Get in line for this stunning bespoke striped wallpaper, which can be custom-coloured to your exact specification.
Morroccan stripe wallcovering, from £168 per roll, House Couturier.

5 We went cuckoo for this fabulous wall clock, handmade using an array of coloured resin stripes.
Diamantini & Domeniconi Striped Cuckoo Clock, £165, Rockett St George.



MINI TREND

CUPCAKES

September sees the end of summer, so console yourself with our tasty treats.



Metal Sign cupcake hook, £2.95, Dotcomgiftshop.

Pink Cupcake Cushion, £18, Hunkydory Home.

Set of two cupcakes tea towels, £6, John Lewis.

DESIGNER LISTINGS & STOCKISTS

A

A White Room 01282 862 626 www.awhiteroom.com
Abitare 01942 248 842 www.abitareuk.com
Abode Interiors 0116 2600 252 www.abode-interiors.co.uk
Absolut Form 0845 230 0685 www.topgourmet.co.uk
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Aestus Radiators 01902 387 080 www.aestus-radiators.com
AFG Kitchens 0844 800 2007 www.afgk.uk.com
Also Home 0844 870 0165 www.alsohome.com
Amaroni www.amaroni.com
Amode www.amode.co.uk
And So To Bed 01423 709 555 www.andsotobed.co.uk
Aqualux 0870 241 6131 www.aqualux.co.uk

B

Bang & Olufsen (Nantwich) 01270 626 235 www.bang-olufsen.com/beostores/nantwich
Barker and Stonehouse 08444 204 220 www.barkerandstonehouse.co.uk
BAS 01928 579957 www.b-a-s.co.uk
Bay Tree Conservatories 01244 880 770 www.baytreeconservatories.co.uk
Beckers Paints 0207 736 9876 www.beckerspaints.co.uk
Bianchi Furniture 01462 433 130 www.bianchifurniture.com
Bisazza www.bisazza.com
Bisca 01439 771 702 www.bisca.co.uk
Bisque Radiators 01225 478 500 www.bisque.co.uk
Black Orchid Interiors 01772 722 344 www.blackorchidinteriors.co.uk
Bombay Duck 0208 749 300 www.bombayduck.co.uk
Bontempi Casa www.bontempi.it
British Ceramic Tile 0800 783 6262 www.toppstiles.co.uk
Burning Desires 01772 716 375 www.burningdesires.co.uk

C

Caroline Rees Glass Design 01792 369 652 www.blastedglass.co.uk
Castrads 0161 297 0015 www.castrads.com
Cath Kidston 08450 262 440 www.cathkidston.co.uk
Charnwood 01983 537 777 www.charnwood.com
Cheadle Glass 0161 480 6644 www.cheadleglass.com
Cifial 01933 402 008 www.cifial.co.uk
Cloudberry Living www.cloudberryliving.co.uk
Colloco 01538 382 615 www.colloco.co.uk
Cooks & Kitchens Direct 01325 352 111 www.cooksandkitchens.co.uk
Cox & Cox 0870 442 4787 www.coxandcox.co.uk
Craven Dunnill 01746 761 611 www.cravendunnill.co.uk
Curve Interior Design 0161 237 9300 www.curveinteriordesign.co.uk

D

Darlings Of Chelsea 0207 371 5745 www.darlingsofchelsea.co.uk
David Village Lighting 0114 263 4266 www.light-attack.co.uk
Debenhams www.debenhams.com
Diane Berry 0161 798 5335 www.dianeberrykitchens.co.uk
Drinkstuff 0870 428 0958 www.drinkstuff.com
Dunelm Mill 08451 656 565 www.dunelm-mill.com
Dwell 0845 675 9090 www.dwell.co.uk

E-F

Euro Lighting 01785 760 939 www.eurolighting.net
Farrow & Ball 01202 876 141 www.farrow-ball.com
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Fired Earth 0845 366 0400 www.firedearth.com
Formahouse www.formahouse.co.uk
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Funktionalley 01924 466 040 www.funktionalley.com

G

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H-J

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L

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Laura Ashley 0871 983 5999 www.lauraashley.com
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N

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New House Textiles www.newhousetextiles.co.uk

O

Original Bathrooms 0208 940 7554 www.original-bathrooms.co.uk
Original Style 01392 473 000 www.originalstyle.com

P

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Paperchase 0161 839 1500 www.paperchase.co.uk
Parapan 0113 201 2240 www.parapan.co.uk
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Pedlars 01330 850 400 www.pedlars.co.uk
Pergo 01827 871 840 www.pergo.com
Porcelanosa (Solihull) 0121 746 6464; (Warrington) 01925 237 807 www.porcelanosa.co.uk
Pots of Paint 01544 388 535 www.potsofpaint.com
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Pussy Home Boutique www.pussyhomeboutique.co.uk

Q

Quadrille Publishing 0207 839 7117 www.quadrille.co.uk

R

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S

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Swanky Rooms 0121 559 4095 www.swankyrooms.co.uk
Sweetpea & Willow 0845 257 2627 www.sweetpeaandwillow.com

T

Taskers DIY 0151 525 4844 www.taskersgroup.co.uk
The Conran Shop 0207 589 7401 www.conranshop.co.uk
The Contemporary Home 02392 469 400 www.tch.net
The French Bedroom Company 08456 448 022 www.frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk
The Glass House 01244 314 881 www.theglasshousedesigns.co.uk
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The Open Fire Centre 01524 843 680 www.theopenfirecentre.co.uk
The Radiator Factory 0116 260 9257 www.radiatorfactory.net
The Scottish Antique & Arts Centre 01786 841 203 www.scottish-antiques.com
The Tile Trader 0113 279 5696 www.tilesandmosaics.co.uk
The Watergate St Gallery 01244 345 698 www.watergatestreetgallery.co.uk
The White Company 0845 678 8150 www.thewhitecompany.com
Tile Depot www.thetiledepot.co.uk
Tile Of Spain www.spaintiles.info
Time 4 Sleep 01484 500 560 www.time4sleep.co.uk
Timorous Beasties 0141 959 331 www.timorousbeasties.com
Today Interiors 01476 574 401 www.today-interiors.com
Townhouse 01423 701 555 www.townhousedesign.co.uk
Trainspotters 01453 756 677 www.trainspotters.uk.com
Twentytwentyone 0207 837 1900 www.twentytwentyone.com

V-Z

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Villeroy & Boch 0208 871 4028 www.villeroy-boch.co.uk
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NEXT ISSUE

OCTOBER ISSUE ON SALE **16 SEPT**



THE HEAT IS ON!

Keep warm this winter with the latest fires, stoves and radiators

NATURAL STYLE

Bring the outside in with flora and fauna inspired home buys

ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO PAINT

Everything you ever need to know when painting your home

TIME OUT

Our pick of the best clocks

Image courtesy of Jotul 01527 506 010 www.jotuluk.com

PLUS: CREATIVE CHILDREN'S BEDROOMS

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT YORKSHIRE'S PROPERTY MARKET

INSPIRATIONAL HOMES AND GARDENS

TREND: GOLD

Make like a magpie and add some sparkle to your living space this September, with these gorgeous gold goodies!

For stockist details see page 128.



Decorated gold 'Aqua Jewels' basin mixer, from £574, Aquaplus Solutions.



Gold metallic bottle shaped vase, from £89, BoConcept.



Gold leaf candle holder, £2.99 each, Sainsbury's.



'Bubu II' chrome gold stool, £157, Made In Design.



Rosanna 'Kings Road' dessert plate, £29.95 for 4, DRH Collection.



'Stone One' Gold Line bath, From £14,950, C.P. Hart.



'Maisy' 16 piece gold cutlery set, £160, Habitat.



Gold leaf table, £333.50, Vitra.



'Gold 15' pedal bin, £1,820, Vipp.



Gold money box, £15.95, dwell.



'Megan' gold mirror, £195, John Lewis.



'Boat' table bowl, £47, Edge Company.